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Israel

"The matter is closed," Defense Minister Arens told Tel Aviv radio when asked if "the end of the road" had been reached in obtaining U.S. loan guarantees. In a "very bitter" speech to U.S. Jewish activists, Arens said "we will not grovel" for the guarantees, HA'ARETZ reported, and said that he "sees no point in submitting another request," YEDI'OT AHARONOT disclosed. Under the headline "It Will Cost Us Dearly," a HA'ARETZ commentator saw a trend in bilateral relations that is "real, hard to take, and worrisome." HA'ARETZ also reported that Israeli-made rockets had recently been photographed on a truck in a military parade in Baghdad.

Iran

The Navy has reportedly been on full alert since the arrival of a North Korean ship thought to be carrying Scud missiles, according to the London paper SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI, which added that according to an agreement with North Korea, Tehran has already received 80 Scud-B missiles and 120 modified Chinese tanks. A Foreign Ministry statement denied charges by the Iraqi prime minister that Tehran had encouraged Baghdad to prolong its occupation of Kuwait, Tehran radio reported. Meanwhile, "technical problems" delayed the planned exchange of prisoners with Iraq, according to a Red Cross spokesman cited by IRNA.

Libya

Washington has begun evacuating its nationals "in order to carry out military and economic aggression" against the country, according to the justice secretary, whose remarks were reported by Algiers radio.

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat's message marking the 52d month of the intifadah was broadcast by Algiers Voice of Palestine. Discussing the Arab-Israeli talks, 'Arafat said: "The events and happenings of the fourth round of the negotiations have confirmed that the Palestinian decision to take part in the political process was sound and correct."

Iraq

Saddam Husayn has formed a "new secret leadership" from among his closest supporters and relatives to replace other decisionmaking bodies. Dissidents cited in the London-based paper SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI noted the exclusion of Vice President Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister 'Aziz, and Army Chief of Staff al-Rawi from the group.

Egypt

An "international organization" whose goal is to "destabilize Egypt through occasional acts of violence" was uncovered, according to the interior minister, who was cited by MENA. 'Abd-al-Halim Musa added that he is "concerned about democracy" because of such groups, affirming that "we do not want to return to the days of indiscriminate rule."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Leader Comments on Regional Issues

NC1503092492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has warned that the Arab nation is currently confronting numerous challenges and threats and affirmed that there is no alternative to adhering to Arab solidarity to protect the interests of the nation, the future of its generations, and its security.

In an interview published in today's AL-AKHBAR, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during his numerous tours to Arab nations he has sensed that Arab leaders have an honest desire to clear the Arab atmosphere and bridge the gap which resulted from the Gulf crisis.

He clarified that the Arab world is confronting a number of intertwined issues and challenges, foremost of which are Palestine issue; the Arab-Israeli conflict; the escalating problem of food shortages; the water issue; the ever-growing technological gap between the Arab and the advanced world; and financial issues, which include the need to secure the necessary financial resources on a regular and stable basis to carry out balanced social and economic growth throughout the Arab homeland.

In the interview, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed the radical changes the world has witnessed, including the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the collapse of communism, and the birth of the new commonwealth. He mentioned the results of these changes, such as the historic change of the end of a bipolar world. He also drew attention to the growing economic strength of Europe and its movement toward unity.

He affirmed that the Arab nation should benefit from these changes, especially because of its great human and natural potential, which enables it to deal with these new circumstances. This is the case as long as Arab goals are united and they continue to work until the Arab nation reaches the lofty status to which it aspires.

Regarding Western accusations that Libya is responsible for the two planes downed over Lockerbie and Niger, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid praised the Libyan Government's stand, describing it as lenient and sensible. He expressed his belief that this crisis must be resolved through cooperation and coordination with the United Nations via a legal committee.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the situation in Somalia and Arab League efforts to resolve the conflict. He pointed out that the Somali crisis is based on tribal conflicts. He called on the parties in Somalia to use their minds, avert further fragmentation and suffering, and agree on one objective to remove the dangers of division and collapse in their country.

Regarding the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraq, he affirmed that he is in constant contact with the permanent representatives of Iraq and Kuwait to end this problem. He expressed his hope that a solution to this problem will be reached soon because there is no justification for keeping these prisoners.

The Arab League chief discussed the league's role in the Arab- Israeli peace negotiations, saying that the nature of the bilateral negotiations necessitates that they be restricted only to the countries concerned in this issue. As for the multilateral negotiations, he continued, Arab League participation depends on the desire and wish of the member countries. He affirmed that the Arab League has never been far removed from the peace conference, whether with regard to coordinating stands or support of the Arab League Council for the peace efforts exerted to realize the supreme Arab goals.

Arab League 97th Session Opens

NC1603145692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The Arab League Council's 97th session began today at permanent delegate level. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid also attended. Over three days the council will discuss 40 items, all issues for joint Arab action, foremost among which are Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's report on league activities between the two sessions and reports on the work of the seven-member committee charged with amending the Arab League Charter, developments in the Palestinian issue, Jewish immigration, and the situation in the occupied Golan Heights and southern Lebanon as well as bureau reports on the Arab boycott of Israel and a report on the situation in Somalia.

In his opening speech, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid specified the principles defining joint Arab action, including solving Arab problems within the Arab League, finding practical formulas to prevent a recurrence of the Gulf crisis of August 1990, and forming an Arab court of justice and an Arab peacekeeping force. 'Abd-al-Majid called on the United States and Russia to shoulder their responsibilities toward Israel's intransigence, which is considered an obstacle to peace. He appealed to the warring parties in Somalia not to miss the current opportunity, to maintain the cease-fire, and to safeguard Somalia's unity, security, and stability. He said the Arab League is following with interest and anxiety the situation between the United States and Libya.

In a speech today, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League and chairman of the current session, stressed that the Gulf crisis has harmed joint Arab action and led to a loss of confidence. He hoped the crisis would not recur, noting that Arab security must stem from the Arab countries and joint Arab action. He pointed out that the threats against Libya are a clear sign of the dangers confronting

the Arab region. He thanked the Arab kings and presidents for their support of Libya in this crisis, which his country is prepared to resolve diplomatically.

Lebanon handed the session chairmanship to Libya and the opening session adjourned. The four legal, political, economic, and financial committees then held closed meetings.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Speech Marks 52d Month of Intifadah

LD1503213592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Mar 92

["Text" of speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to the people in the "occupied Palestinian territories and the diaspora" on the occasion of the beginning of the 52d month of the intifadah; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And those who strive in our cause, we will certainly guide them to our paths; for verily God is with those who do right. Then fight in God's cause; thou art held responsible only for thyself, and rouse the believers. It may be that God will restrain the fury of the unbelievers; for God is the strongest in might and in punishment. God says the truth. [Koranic verses]

O masses of the courageous intifadah; O heroes of the sacred stones revolution; O you strugglers, the makers of the epic of stubborn resistance in each town, village, and camp; O sons of our steadfast, fighting people in the homeland, exiles, and the diaspora; O fighters in the mountains, valleys, and plains of our beloved country; steadfast behind the bars of occupation, you build and depict the area of the dawn of freedom for your great people, children, women, and the elderly;

O masses of our fighting people in the homeland and the diaspora, my brothers and my beloved, we now enter a new month in the age of the blessed, glorious intifadah. This is a new month on a new heroic page of the formulation of the position of the difficult Palestinian figure, yes, in the formulation of the difficult Palestinian figure, the position of the difficult Palestinian figure in the Middle East equation under the new world order.

We have imposed this difficult Palestinian figure on the peace talks now under way, in accordance with the Palestinian confrontation plan under these harsh and difficult Arab and Palestinian conditions. Here you are brothers, beloved ones, continuing with your faith, your struggle, to instill fresh and intense momentum to the intifadah with great and extensive sacrifices, thus outlining victory for our great Palestinian people and pride for our eternal nation.

As light and brightness announce the birth of this new month in the age of the intifadah, the 52d month, we are saying farewell to a month full of steadfastness and sacrifices in facing up to this fascist occupier, despite the fascist attempts at detention carried out by the terrorist authorities of the enemy. It is a new moment in which we all stand solemnly before the fresh list of heroic martyrs and the brave wounded who have offered their pure blood as fuel for the flames of the blazing and renewed intifadah.

The intifadah is the message of life and freedom which our people are sending daily to the whole world. It has proved its presence and its giant nature with this mujahid and steadfast people, this mujahid, steadfast, and faithful people. It has defeated the message of injustice, aggression, occupation, and settlement and the usurping of land and sanctities.

This month Menahem Begin died. He was a man whose political life was ended by the Beirut epic. He passed the rest of his days in grief in his home overlooking the graves of our victims, the victims of the Deyr Yasin massacre. God grants respite but never neglects.

Yes brothers, yes beloved ones, every time this occupying enemy believes, makes one believe, or imagines that it is close to bringing our glorious and blessed intifadah under control, it is stunned by the surprise of a legendary, epic, fresh rising; a capability to renew, to offer, and to invent means and ways; and by the escalation and continuation of the Palestinian jihad march toward glorious victory.

The world has continuously stood up in respect, with its free men, its revolutionaries, and its noble men, to honor the Palestinian heroism and the Palestinian revolutionary creation which has penetrated and continues to penetrate the positions, the strongholds of the enemy, and its deepest depths in al-Jalil [Galilee], ('the Triangle), Rafah, Khan Yunis, Gaza, al-Khalil [Hebron], Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, [place-name indistinct], Tulkarm, Qalqiliyah, Jenin, Arihah, and in every village, town, and camp.

It is high time this enemy knew that the intifadah is rebelling against it and is standing proudly before it despite all the forms of repression, terror, tyranny, annexation, and settlement; despite the batches of new immigrants and the unlimited military, political, financial, and economic support it receives from its allies, who even cover up for its crimes; despite all the forms of Israeli practices and blatant violations of the human rights of Palestinian individuals and people and Palestinian sanctities; and despite their crimes against our children, women, and families and against our Muslim and Christian sanctities.

There is only one way for our people, brothers. Indeed, there is only one way, brothers, and it is today's fight, the fact of the present and the reality of the future. It is the strong determination of a people who believed in this authentic revolutionary method to force [as heard] and who state to this odious Israeli occupation and its allies and friends that the only thing left for them is to respond to the will of the free men and the revolutionaries, the

will of the peoples who cannot be oppressed. There is only one way left to them, and that is withdrawal from our land, the acknowledgment of our inalienable national rights, the foremost of which is our right to return and to self-determination, and the establishment of our independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Indeed, indeed, indeed, brothers. Indeed, indeed, indeed, friends. In this difficult period in the life of our Arab nation destinies are made, and destinies are placing greater and wider responsibilities on the shoulders of our people, who are fighting and defending their cause in order to fill a gap here or an opening there in the Arab wall. It is obvious to everyone that the Palestinian people are carrying out this pan-Arab duty out of strength, conviction, and belief and are motivated by their profound faith and creed, by their Arab nation, and also by their deep-rooted moral and fighting traditions on the long road of struggle to liberate our Jerusalem and our Palestinian land from the claws of occupation sooner or later, sooner or later, sooner or later.

It has become clear to all that the creative Palestinian mind is waging the national confrontation on the third front—the political and diplomatic front at the ongoing negotiations—with the same enthusiasm, discipline, and conviction through which the Palestinian struggle is escalating on both fronts of the intifadah inside the occupied homeland; with the same Palestinian and Lebanese steadfastness demonstrated in southern Lebanon, where we have lost the valuable martyr, the learned mujahid 'Abbas al-Musawi; in other places of struggle, and in the Palestinian diaspora.

All of this represents strength, impregnability, and the pillar for us; it gives us inspiration and provides us with resolution, determination, and faith.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Of a truth ye are stronger because of the terror in their hearts sent by God. This is because they are men devoid of understanding. God the almighty has said the truth. [Koranic verse]

Through the peace negotiations—starting at the Madrid conference, up to the fourth and last round in Washington, after passing through Moscow—the creative Palestinian mind has created the third side of the triangle of the Palestinian struggle and jihad toward certain victory. We are involved in a political-cum-diplomatic battle because it is taking place on the Palestinian [word indistinct] stage and in the shadow of the critical and difficult balances of power imposed upon us and upon our nation.

The Palestinian negotiators in Madrid, Washington, and Moscow, alongside their Arab brothers, have discharged their duty with clean patriotic consciences and with total pan-Arab and national commitment to the rights of our people, our nation, and the sacrifices of our patient, persistent, and steadfast masses. It was a clear voice expressing the agony of our people and the objectives of our blessed intifadah, which deserves from us all without exception admiration, greetings, and a brotherly warm embrace, as well as the speedy cohesion of the three sides of the triangle of the Palestinian jihad and national struggle, on all its various fronts, with all the conviction and awareness of its viciousness and difficulty.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. That even the apostle and those of faith who were with him cried: When will come the help of God? When will come the help of God? Ah, verily, the help of God, the help of God, the help of God is near! The great God says the truth. [Koranic verse]

Yes, my brothers, my beloved, negotiation is a fight in a quiet voice in which there is attack and retreat, commander and soldier, the self and the other self, with all its contradictions and difficulties in the face of the imbalance of powers, in particular following the results of the Gulf war and the start of the single-pivot phase of the new world order, the new world order.

It is true that there is a familiar truth in human history. What does it say, brother? It says that years of negotiations are better than an hour of war. But I say that in the name of the people, in the name of its revolutionaries, in the name of its fighters, in the name of its free men and in the name of the free men, fighters, and revolutionaries of the Arab nation, I tell you, my brothers and beloved, that one hour of negotiations with this enemy could be (?shorter) than years of war with this occupying enemy, which contradicts God and the apostles' instructions, and with it those allies which supply it with the means of strength and power and help it to continue its error, crimes, and occupation with this unlimited support at all levels.

From this starting point it becomes a national, religious, moral, and combat duty for all of us, all of us, to provide for our negotiators, for our Palestinian negotiator—this brave, steadfast Palestinian negotiator who proved to have his rights and all the requirements for victory in the arenas of his fierce fighting due to the effectiveness of his presence and his people—our authentic national unity, the comprehensive daily escalation of our blessed intifadah, the consolidation of our steadfastness in all combat positions, and our courageous resistance to all its forms of repression, occupation, crimes, prisons, and detention camps. Yes, to all the forms of its repression, occupation, terror, crimes, prisons, and detention camps.

We drew up our strategy in this form and in this intifadah, under the PLO's banner, with a single basis which is strong and solid, strong and solid, yes, strong and solid: Our people, with their leadership, create their destiny with their blood, sacrifices, and fighting, and they will do so.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. They prayed: Our Lord! Pour constancy on us and make our steps firm; help us against those who reject faith. The great God says the truth. [Koranic verse]

Indeed, brothers. Indeed, friends. Our negotiating delegation has succeeded in perfectly expressing their rights and the interests, needs, and goals of our people. This Palestinian skill in politics, diplomacy, and mediation has earned the admiration of the entire international community. The events and happenings of the fourth round of the negotiations have confirmed that the Palestinian decision to take part in the political process was sound and correct [words indistinct].

Brothers, we wage all our battles, those we plan for and those which are imposed upon us, with the same strength, conviction, and firmness to defend our people, to defend our nation, to defend our land, and to defend our sanctities. We do not hide and we do not escape under the slogan of overbidding [as heard] at the expense of the homeland. We seek a just peace which guarantees our people their appropriate place under the sun and among the peoples of our earth, under the shadow of this new equation, and in accordance with our Palestinian vision based on the resolutions of our national councils, our supreme pan-Arab interests, and on the basis of international legitimacy and international resolutions, yes, on the basis of international legitimacy and international resolutions.

This remarkable performance by our delegation rattled the nerves of our enemy occupier and its allies. For the first time they departed from the rules of the game. They departed from what, brothers? They departed from the rules of the game by attempting to openly oppose our delegation in the media, which they guide and control. All this was due to the firmness of our delegation's stand and its insistence on addressing the important and essential issues, including the Jerusalem issue, the confiscation of land; settlements, and the settlers who are swallowing up land and altering its demographic and geographic character in order to hamper peace and undermine efforts for a just settlement. Would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

With the same clarity and transparence to which we are accustomed, I tell you, brothers and beloved, that the road is still difficult—long, rugged, and full of thorns, difficulties, and conspiracies. The most difficult stages of battle in the political and military domains are usually the last hours. Yes, the most difficult stages in the political and military fields, brothers, are usually the last hours. Let the enemy be informed and know that we are a people who do not lay down to rest, who do not sleep, and who do not stop being vigilant in the various moments of confrontation on the road to realizing the certain victory.

Let our enemy be informed and know that the idea of relying on its tyranny, the tyranny of its troops and its settlers, and on the capabilities of its allies cannot push us into a single moment of inattention, negligence, rest, or self-complacency. We are potential martyrs, we are potential martyrs on the road of jihad. Small victories are but scoring points in the arena of the unequal, hot confrontations in the great inevitable victory.

In these fateful and decisive moments I urge all of you, I urge you brothers and beloved ones, to be like one man in the fields of the intifadah and political combat, in the positions of resistance to the usurping and occupying enemy, in the domains of steadfastness, and in the positions of the diaspora. As we have succeeded in resisting the attempt to exclude us from the political map, for they were planning to decide the fate of our people in our absence, we are capable of resisting any form of despair, surrender, incomplete solution, or diminished rights. Our people have grown up with endurance. They are a people who, like other peoples, are qualified to take part with freedom, independence, and competence in formulating the new international order which is being mentioned at every moment and in every place.

We will not accept such an international order being at our expense and at the expense of our generations, as happened in the Sykes-Picot agreement [British-French agreement of 1916 on dividing the Middle East] and at Yalta and Malta.

Hence our reply to the illegitimate Israeli plan. Yes, hence our reply to the illegitimate Israeli plan which offers us the leftovers from the tables of occupation. Our reply is our clear plan for the Palestinian transitional short term and the very short time span—I am trying to emphasize that, specifically months, no longer or shorter—and [Palestinian] authority and control of the land, yes, authority and control of the land, and free elections for our masses under international auspices, with international protection for our people against the abominable crimes to which they are daily subjected by this fascist usurper enemy who is still dreaming of Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates while the Arabs are oblivious or distracted due to their scheming and conspiring.

Yes, brothers, let our bodies remain erect and our arms ready and strong with all weapons, and let the torches remain lit. Hold to your sacred stones strongly, O children of my country, in cohesion with the heroes of steadfastness and resistance in the places of execution and revolution. Incite yourselves and your children to carry on the struggle and to escalate it, O women of my country, O women of my country. Spread and generalize your services, O elderly people of my country.

Escalate the struggle, confrontation, and resistance, O steadfast, O mujahidin of the striking forces and peoples committees and groups of heroic hot pursuers. This is the time of intensifying resistance which precedes the time of [word indistinct] harvest at the battles, rounds, and engagements on all fronts and in all confrontations.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Therefore, patiently persevere as did the apostles of inflexible purpose; be in no haste about the unbelievers. On the day that they see the punishment promised them

it will be as if they had not tarried more than an hour in a single day. God the almighty has said the truth. [Koranic verse]

O my brothers, O my beloved, the coming months are a demarcating and decisive period in the life of our patriotic struggle. It is the period of black clouds coming together—yes, the gathering of black clouds and the meeting of lines of conspiracy and of plotting. We have to be properly prepared for this battle by being armed with our profound experience, and with our faith, our faith, our great faith. Yes, with our great faith.

The courageous Palestinian decision has foiled the game of excluding the Palestinian presence or overlooking national Palestinian rights, and we have proved to all that peace will be only the Palestinian peace. What have we proved to all, brothers? That peace will be only the Palestinian peace. We must confront any solutions seeking to exclude or diminish our sacred rights to freedom, independence, and sovereignty, primarily among the capital of our independent state: holy Jerusalem, holy Jerusalem, holy Jerusalem. To enter the temple, as they entered it the first time, and to destroy utterly that to which they ascended. [Koranic verse] God says the truth.

These are the gates to peace, and these are the gates to stability in Palestine and in all the region. And, as we understand and show understanding concerning the accumulation and structure of the new complicated interests in our region and the world, they must understand and show understanding of the fact that our national interest is based on the freedom of our people, their independence, and the sovereignty on their land, destinies, and future. I reiterate to you, beloved ones, that the decisive time frame which will define the directions of the winds and sails of solutions are the coming decisive months and the attempts to make us enter their mazes, conspiracies, and dangerous turning points. It is a period in which the Israeli elections will take place, followed by the U.S. elections. Naturally, Israeli elections, followed by Israeli elections [as heard]—well, never mind—with all that this difficult period means in terms of difficulties and dangers inside and outside, locally, regionally, and internationally.

The international community bears moral, ethical, and political responsibilities to demonstrate international credibility and that there are no double standards, and to prove also that our people have rights in accordance with international resolutions which must be respected. We placed all these responsibilities to bear on the U.S. in particular, along with Russia, Europe, China, and Japan, and the region's future will be defined in light of this. Those who endure with fortitude misfortune, hardship, and peril, these are those who are true in their faith, these are the truly God-fearing. [Koranic verse]. God says the truth.

Brothers, just as we are continuing daily and with great eagerness to reinforce, establish, and entrench our national unity, we are tirelessly working to create a better climate and conditions for inter-Arab solidarity, especially between the sides directly concerned. We extend our hand to the Arab sides and tell them to provide better conditions for us and for all. Once again, I address myself to all my brother Arab leaders and I call for the strengthening of inter-Arab solidarity in order to face up to the dangerous challenges which are accumulating before our Arab nation, its future and its existence, including this political process [the current peace negotiations], and so that we may gather more extensive capabilities and more comprehensive potentials for victory, pride, and life.

It is not right. It is not right, O brothers. It is not right. I am saying this to the entire Arab nation. It is not right and is not permitted for some to think of sitting around a peace talks table with the enemy while our Arab house is in need of unity, cohesion, mutual understanding, and mutual compassion with which to face the enemy and confront it. Yes, yes, cohesion, mutual understanding, and mutual compassion with which to face the enemy and confront it. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Truly God loves those who fight in his cause in battle array, as if they were a solid, cemented structure. God the almighty says the truth. [Koranic verse]

O my brothers, O my beloved, the magnificent steadfastness of our people and the Palestinian political performance have brought down the Israeli Government. It is a defeat which the occupation is trying to convert into an escape card from the peace process. Every step that the occupier takes away from the road of peace increases its crises manyfold because it knows the hard historical facts from which there is no escape: namely, that there is no peace except the Palestinian peace, the just peace, the peace of the brave, the peace from which they are escaping, the peace of the brave which will provide security and safety for all without exception, without which there will be no peace, no security, and no stability. Therefore, my brothers and my beloved, we have to intensify the struggle and continue the sincere and honest jihad until the end of this ugly occupation. [Word indistinct] heavy darkness in its last breaths before the influx of light bursting forth over the near horizon.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Truly did God fulfill the vision for his apostle; ye shall enter the sacred mosque, if God wills it, with your minds secure. [Koranic verse]

O masses of the valiant intifadah; O our brave children; O our proud women; O our mujahidin men; O heroes in the ranks of the Unified National Leadership and the strike forces; O our militant cadres among women, youth, students, workers, peasants, businessmen, academicians, skilled workers, vocational specialists, and officials; O eagles in the detention camps of the fascists while you continue the making of a steadfast epic unique in human history; O valiant wounded carrying pride

over your foreheads; O steadfast mujahidin residents bound by the sacred tie to the land blessed by God, and wherever you are in the positions of jihad and struggle. O sons of our heroic people in the homeland and in the diaspora; O masses of our great Arab nation, let us continue bolstering our national unity and let us be as one heart of one man, for we have pledged to the blood of the heroic martyrs, the martyrs of the revolution, and the intifadah. Our national unity is the shield of steadfastness and the road of the jihad toward victory.

Let us continue delivering blows at the occupation and at its structures and to set the land on fire under the feet of the invaders and occupiers with the hands of the stone-throwing children and members of our strike forces all over the occupied homeland, in the confrontation with occupation and with the herds of armed settlers. Let us confront the attempt to steal our land and to desecrate our Islamic and Christian sacred places. Jerusalem is in our hearts and minds. The jihad is our way and Palestine is our road, and victory is in our eyes. Dawn is certainly coming, dawn is certainly coming, and victory is certainly coming and our Palestinian flag will be raised over Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestinian state, over the walls of Jerusalem, over the minarets of Jerusalem, and over the churches of Jerusalem.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: If ye help not your leader, (?it is no matter) for God did indeed help him when the unbelievers drove him out. He had no more than one companion. They two were in the cave, and he said to his companion: Have no fear, for God is with us; then God sent His peace upon him with forces which ye saw not, and another which ye do love, help from God and a speedy victory. God the almighty has said the truth.

It is a revolution until victory, until victory, until victory. Your brother, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

PNC Figures Reject Peace Talks Conditions

JN1603075292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Mar 92 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atayah]

[Text] Amman—About 170 prominent Palestinian figures, the majority of whom are members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), have signed a petition addressed to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat demanding Palestinian rejection of the "American-Israeli conditions" for its participation in the Arab-Israeli peace talks and warning against continuing the process under these conditions.

The petition, which was sent Saturday to the PLO chairman, the PNC speaker, Executive Committee members and the general secretaries of the various factions making up the organisation, insisted that the conditions for Palestinian participation in the peace talks were aimed at providing limited self-rule for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

"...The conditions imposed by Israel and the United States on participation in the peace process are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and Palestinian national rights," the petition read, adding that providing limited self-administration for Palestinians living under occupation would also provide "the necessary conditions for sustaining occupation."

The signatories of the petition included the leader of the Palestine Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) George Habash, who from the beginning rejected conditions placed on Palestinian participation in the Mideast talks. They also included members of Mr. 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah Central Council, like 'Abbas Zaki and Hani al-Hasan; moderate members of the Palestine Central Council (PCC), like Shuman Foundation Director As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman and Bir Zayt University President Hanna Nasir; president of the Palestinian women's federation, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Hadi; prominent writers, journalists, and lawyers, like Ibrahim Bakr.

Scepticism over the peace talks, which started in Madrid last October, grew after Israel escalated its repressive measures in the occupied territories and continued to insist that it would neither halt Jewish settlements nor withdraw from any of the territories it occupied in 1967. The lack of progress in the four months after the Madrid talks also added to scepticism that the outcome of the negotiations would not end the Israeli occupation.

The head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayif Hawatimah, repeatedly demanded that the Palestinians should "place the process on the right track by insisting on a complete representation."

While Mr. Hawatimah and Dr. Habash, who lead the second two largest factions in the PLO after Fatah, insist that the form of the delegation affects the substance and outcome of the talks, the supporters of the negotiations argue that substance is the more important aspect of the talks than the form of representation.

Israel refused to enter the peace talks unless the Palestinian delegation comprised only Palestinians from the West Bank, excluding Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. However, the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks in January boycotted the conference after representatives from Jerusalem and the diaspora were rejected by the cosponsors, the U.S. and Russia.

The signatories made the following demands on the Palestinian leadership:

—The PLO should insist on a unified representation at the peace talks to include Palestinians from inside the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, as well as from the diaspora;

—The PLO should insist that the implementation of U.N. resolutions and stopping Jewish settlement activity should be viewed as preconditions to the negotiations;

—The PLO should demand that the solving of the refugee problem should be inseparable from the Palestinian problem, and that U.N. Resolution 194 guaranteeing the Palestinian right of return should be respected;
—The PLO should demand Israeli implementation of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Conventions and to insist on complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories;
—The PLO should reject all partial solutions.

The petitioners insisted that continued Palestinian participation in the talks according to the U.S. and Israeli conditions will "adversely affect our political and national achievements" and will lead to "sidestepping the PLO and damage achievements secured through our national struggle over a quarter of a century," especially the intifadah.

"The struggle of our people to achieve independence, right to self-determination on Palestinian soil and the right of return is the only option that must be followed in order to confront the hostile scheme which aims at ignoring our historical and national rights," the petition said.

According to PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, the demands of the petitioners do not contradict the PLO's policy regarding the peace talks.

"The petition confirms the PLO's policy of the peace talks," Mr. al-Najjab told the Jordan Times. He said that the principles laid out in the petition comply with what the PLO is trying to achieve through the peace talks with Israel.

Mr. al-Najjab admitted that there was what he described as "danger" that the peace process might deviate from the track that would eventually achieve Palestinian national rights, a warning that was expressed in a memo his party, the Palestinian People's Party (former Communist Party), had sent to Mr. 'Arafat earlier this month.

He said the petititoners had a role and responsibility in holding on to the Palestinian principles for participating in the peace talks.

"To support such a track," Mr. al-Najjab said, referring to the track the petitioners demanded of the PLO, "is to achieve our national rights."

Palestinian negotiator Samir 'Abdallah rejected the petitioners' conclusion that the outcome of the talks would eventually lead to limited self-rule for Palestinians, that the refugees would settle outside their homeland and that the Arabs would normalise relations with Israel.

"The petitioners already find that the outcome of the talks is negative, which is wrong," Mr. 'Abdallah told the Jordan Times after reading the petition.

He said it was too soon to tell the final form for the peace talks and insisted that there was a strong possibility for the process to head in the right direction as far as the Palestinians were concerned.

However, Mr. 'Abdallah said, it is now impossible to change the conditions of Palestinian participation in the talks. The participation "could be improved," he said without elaborating.

Mr. 'Abdallah also warned that pressure (without elaborating from whom) was being exerted to try to push the peace talks in a direction that could lead to the fears expressed in the petition, but that Palestinian and Arab efforts "could move the process in the right direction."

"The possibility of moving the talks on the right track is there provided that the Palestinian and Arab efforts are unified in the right direction," Mr. 'Abdallah stressed.

'Text' of Memorandum

JN1603154192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Mar 91 pp 1, 27

[Excerpt] Amman—AL RA'Y—Representatives of Palestinian bodies, organizations, and forces have handed Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, a memorandum addressed to the Palestinian leadership.

The signatories, including Dr. George Habash, lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, 'Abbas Zaki, Salim al-Za'nun, Hani al-Hasan, Dr. Subhi Ghawshah, Taysir Qubba'ah, Dr. Hanna Nasir, As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman, and 169 Palestinian figures, including PNC members, demanded that participation in any talks be linked to an insistence on considering the PLO the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, that the Palestinian people should be represented by a unified delegation from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and the diaspora, that the resolutions of international legitimacy should be implemented, and that settlement activities should be halted as a precondition.

The following is the text of the memorandum and the names of the signatories:

Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine;
The brother speaker of the PNC;
The brother members of the PLO Executive Committee;
The brother secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution factions;

Greetings from the revolution.

Large sectors of our Palestinian people in the homeland and the diaspora are worried about the course of the peace process, which started in Madrid, and the accompanying escalation of the Israeli policies of settlements and repression, the expropriation of land, the displacement of people, the deportation of nationalist leaders, the extreme defiance of the resolutions passed by international legitimacy, and the denial of the Palestinian people's national rights. It is evident today that the conditions imposed by Israel and the United States on the peace process are aimed at pushing this process toward liquidating both the cause and the Palestinian people's national rights by granting the inhabitants of the

West Bank and the Gaza Strip self-administration and by providing conditions for the perpetuation of the occupation, settling our people's refugees outside their homeland, normalizing Arab-Israeli relations, attempting to cancel the PLO's role as our Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and disrupting the Palestinian people's unity and splitting their national cause.

Continuing this process under U.S.-Israeli conditions will harm our national and political accomplishments. Moreover, pursuing this path will remove the PLO's role and destroy the accomplishments achieved on more than one level over a quarter of a century of our people's contemporary national struggle, particularly our people's glorious intifadah which is a national accomplishment that should be maintained and developed.

Our people's struggle for their independence and for their right to repatriation and self-determination on the soil of their homeland is the only option that should be maintained against the hostile scheme that seeks to liquidate our national and historical rights.

While we proclaim our adherence to our Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights and call for rejecting the U.S.-Israeli conditions, we demand that the PLO leadership link participation in any talks concerning our national cause to an insistence on:

—Considering the PLO our people's sole legitimate representative. Consequently, the PLO should stick to its right to represent our people through a unified delegation from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem and the diaspora;

—Recognizing the resolutions passed by international legitimacy and halting settlement activities as a precondition. The continuation of negotiations while settlement activities are ongoing provides the Israeli occupation with political cover to continue stealing and Judaizing the land;

—Resolving the problem of refugees and considering this an indivisible part of the Palestine question in accordance with Resolution 194, which guarantees the right to repatriation;

—Implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and ensuring a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories;

—Fulfilling the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state, and rejecting all partial and separate solutions.

A practical commitment to these principles will safeguard our people's national rights, protect their accomplishments, and allow for an overall review that will ensure the establishment of a political process on bases commensurate with the resolutions of international, Arab, and Palestinian legitimacy. [passage omitted]

PLO Issues Addendum to Uprising Appeal

LD1603184792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising [UNLU] in the state of Palestine today issued an addendum to its Appeal No. 80, addressed to the masses of our Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, in which it appeals to them to be alert to cases with which Zionist soldiers attempt to spark internal sedition and split the national Palestinian ranks in a desperate attempt to suppress the valiant uprising. The following is the text of the addendum:

At this time when our national cause is passing through the most criticial and delicate stage in its history, a matter which demands the closing of ranks, the consolidation of our people's national unity, and the directing of all our active and reserve struggle capabilities against the occupation forces and the droves of settlers, and in light of some regrettable events that have taken place in the past few days in some regions of the state of Palestine and the exploitation of these events by the occupation authorities to spread confusion within the ranks of the citizens, the UNLU declares the following:

1. The UNLU calls for the immediate cessation of all forms of clashes, provocations, and sedition and addresses a warning to all who are tempted to create sedition among the sons of our people.

2. The UNLU calls on the striking forces and those with arms to cast aside differences and to cooperate within the framework of relationships of fraternity and struggle based on the values of our people and their struggle and ethical heritage. The UNLU will work in collaboration with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to eradicate all cells of division and evil from the body of our people's uprising.

3. The UNLU congratulates the masses of our people on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan and affirms the need to safeguard the sanctity of this holy month and avoid its desecration in compliance with the teachings of our Islamic religion and the ethical, spiritual, and cultural values of our people.

4. In accordance with the public interest of the masses of our people, and in realization of the UNLU's wishes to draw up integrated programs and activities which would make it possible to escalate the resistance against the Zionist occupation, and to take into consideration the economic and living conditions of the masses of our people, particularly during this blessed month, the UNLU declares that the opening times of businesses throughout the state of Palestine until the end of the blessed month of Ramadan will be as follows:

A. Businesses will remain open until 1600 in all regions, as is now the case in Jerusalem.

B. Restaurants will open from 1500 until the time of fast-breaking.

C. Businesses and restaurants will open after the fast-breaking and will remain open until 2100.

D. The days following 22 March and until the end of the three days of the blessed 'Id will be days for full opening, with the exception of 26 March, which is the day of an all-out strike, as was declared in Appeal No. 80.

E. All the activities contained in Appeal No. 80 must be carried out. In this context, the UNLU appeals to brother traders not to sell Israeli goods and to set 22 March as a final date for getting rid of these goods.

F. The UNLU denounces the recent attacks on restaurants and businesses at Ramallah by some suspect elements and declares its full solidarity with the owners of these businesses and restaurants. It calls on the masses of our people to be cautious and vigilant and not to lay the blame for these attacks on persons other than the Zionist occupationists and their agents.

G. The UNLU denounces the incident at the al-Fari'ah camp which led to the death of one of the camp's sons. The UNLU reiterates its rejection of such methods, which harm national unity, and warns against the continued use of violence as a means of resolving differences among the various members of the national movement.

Masses of the blessed uprising, as it issues new warnings about the escalation of the occupation authorities' attempts to divide our national body, the UNLU appeals to all honorable patriots who are anxious to see the uprising continue and our people's achievements protected to act quickly and persistently, each at his own place and in accordance with his capabilities, to safeguard the national unity and unifying stands and words, and to work to implement the resolutions of the national group as an essential condition for checking the colossal dangers threatening our national unity and mighty uprising.

Long live the giant uprising of our people. Long live the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people.

PLO Files UN Protest Over Israeli 'Crimes'

LD1603150692 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The PLO today sent a protest note to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali in which it brought to his attention and to the attention of the international community the Israeli crimes and the numerous acts of killing which the Israeli occupation forces are carrying out in broad daylight against the unarmed civilian citizens in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In a statement distributed today in Tunis, the PLO said that it demanded in its note, which was presented by a Palestinian observer at the United Nations, the need to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people by putting the occupied Arab territories under UN supervision for a limited period. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Boudiaf Discusses Army Actions, Elections

NC1503122092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council [HSC], has said that the HSC has two years before the former Algerian president's constitutional term is up. He said that if democracy is restored before then the HSC will not hesitate to shorten the time frame. He added, however, that it will not be blackmailed on this issue.

In an interview to be published in tomorrow's Egyptian ROSE AL-YUSUF weekly, Boudiaf says that the Algerian Army proved in recent events that it does not need to be strictly controlled and that its leadership believes in the need to resume the march to democracy.

He pointed out that the Army intervened to stop the election events only after extensive consultations concluded that democracy was being threatened.

Boudiaf said that the Army set an example by its adherence to democracy and respect for legitimacy. It could have prevented the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] from receiving less than 40 percent of votes during the elections, he said, and it also could have stopped the elections, but it opted to take another course so that it would not be accused of planning a military coup. The Army asked President Chadli Bendjedid to resign in order to create a new situation, he said, adding: It did not have its eye on the government.

In his ROSE AL-YUSUF interview Boudiaf said that had the FIS been allowed to attain power, Algeria would have begun a new era of civil strife in which the blood of Muslims would have been shed, their money would have been seized, and their group and party differences would have been increased.

Boudiaf said that he assumed responsibility for the situation in Algeria to put out the fire of sedition threatening the country and the entire Arab region.

Boudiaf stated that he became involved in the situation to allay the fears of the people, to restore respect for the Algerian state, and to create the appropriate circumstances for handing over authority to the youth. He noted that establishing security and solving the economic crisis are needed for any progress toward democracy.

He clarified that Algeria has the necessary resources to escape its current economic crisis and that the Algerian Government has practical plans and programs to activate the economy. It is seeking to develop wells, to prospect for new ones, and to take care of agriculture, especially in the desert, which covers huge aquifers.

Boudiaf affirmed that the way to solve Algeria's problems is to implement true democracy, which is based on parties with specified programs working within the framework of the law.

He said that the Algerian people are angry because the change that took place was not in line with their ambitions. They want a radical change, he noted, which cannot take place overnight. He pointed out that Algeria has some very difficult problems to overcome.

The HSC chairman said that once the economic problems are solved the political crisis will end because approximately 70 percent of the population is younger than 30, and what they need is employment and housing.

Boudiaf clarified the importance of reviewing and changing the Algerian Constitution and holding new elections, adding that presidential elections might take place before parliamentary elections. As for the Western Sahara problem, he said that everyone in Algeria agrees this problem must be solved as soon as possible. They also agree that the only way to reach a solution is to hold a public referendum.

Prime Minister Assesses Economy, FIS Ban

LD1403112992 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Algiers, 14 Mar (APS)—In an interview with the French-language weekly "LE JEUDI D'ALGERIE" and published in its latest issue, Prime Minister Ahmed Ghozali said: "My work depends on the understanding of Algerians, and consequently if my government fails to meet with the desired response, I will withdraw [ansahib]." He said that his government "will never be the one to resolve all the problems of Algerians, for that requires a government which has a longer period of time, or perhaps a number of governments." Furthermore, he stated, "a part of the economic and social crisis must be overcome so that we can this time return to the true democratic march."

Replying to a question about the statements made by the Higher State Council chairman about the economic revival program and the recent cabinet reshuffle, Ghozali pointed out that the question was intentionally put to the chairman in such a way as to get a reply from him that could be interpreted as [the correspondent] desired.

Ghozali added: "It was not Boudiaf who said that change lies in a cabinet reshuffle." He pointed out that change must take place at the level of the government, the state and public sector officials, as well as at the level of the management of the economy and the mentality of Algerians themselves. Algerians must not be made to believe that radical change is a game which will be carried out just for its own sake to appease or deceive the people as happened in 1979, he said.

Ghozali affirmed that the Algerian press "does not act as it does unintentionally, but rather to serve some people who want to create a rift between the head of state and the head of government."

Speaking about the question of bribes, Ghozali said he is trying to put an end to the bribery that has afflicted all social factions. He added, in addressing his interlocuter: Show me specific instances or cases in which the government has turned a blind eye to bribery.

As for the relationship between the rulers and the ruled, Prime Minister Ghozali said that the existence of rulers is an inevitable condition but it is not enough in itself to say that the current link lies in all the social factions and that they are the ones directly concerned with the country's problems. To establish the necessary link between the government and the people, Ghozali said, he depends on the workers, the General Union of Algerian Workers, contractors, the employers trade union, and other bodies. He added: "My government cannot hope to receive support from the parties which only think in terms of the logic of power or how to attain or retain it."

Ghozali said that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], and the National Liberation Front [FLN] have never sought dialogue. He pointed out that the FIS has always advocated abolishing the Constitution, while the FFS has never responded to dialogue with the government and the FLN has trampled democracy even within the party itself.

As for the dissolution of the FIS, Ghozali said that the dissolution decision was not adopted as a solution to our problems. This solution was a reaction from a responsible government on whether to accept or reject the use of violence and the killing of Algerians as a means for political action.

With regard to the economy, Ghozali said that "the market economy demands sacrifices but the economy of a war could lead to greater sacrifices." He added that he is making desperate efforts to deliver Algeria from its debt rescheduling situation. Referring to the foreign oil companies involved in oil prospecting in Algeria, he said that 22 such companies have been contacted and that eight of them have demonstrated interest in this regard and have begun negotiations with Sonatrach [national energy enterprise].

Disturbances Reported at Setif Secondary Schools

LD1403234492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Since relative calm has returned to the universities disturbances in the town of Setif have moved from the university to secondary schools.

The Mohamed (Firouni) Secondary School in Setif has experienced an atmosphere of tension and disturbances due to some pupils boycotting classes and forcing their classmates to also not attend. The forces in charge of security have intervened—short of using force—to disperse pupils who tried to create trouble at the school entrance.

Egypt

Interior Minister—Extremist 'Scheme' Uncovered

NC1403101292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2158 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that an international terrorist scheme is behind the extremist organizations trying to disrupt security and destabilize Egypt through occasional acts of violence. He said that the scheme seeks to seize power in Egypt.

At a ceremony held by the AL-MASA' newspaper, Musa said that the security agencies have uncovered the roots, details, and goals of this scheme, which operated through the Salsabil Computer Company, currently under investigation. In a speech that will be published in tomorrow's [Saturday] AL-JUMHURIYAH, Musa said that the Salsabil Company used its position as a scientific establishment to cover up its extremist activities; a legal facade for illegal activities. The security agencies pinpointed the entire international organization, the role of each individual, funding, and even the government they formed to rule the country in the event their plan succeeded.

Musa said that university professors, politicians, and members of teaching clubs, who joined trade unions and controlled them, have been implicated in this international organization. He noted that following their arrest, a number of individuals embroiled in this organization tried to bargain with us, saying that they would stop attacking us in their newspapers in return for their freedom. We refused their offer, and asserted that we fear nothing and reject bargaining, because we have a mission and have devoted ourselves to serve God. The law is the final arbiter between us and these and other groups. Musa said that he is waiting for the Public Prosecution Office to complete its investigation before he publicly announces the details of the case.

Musa said that he is concerned about democracy in accordance with President Mubarak's instructions. Law is the arbiter of our actions, he said, adding: We can use force with these extremists, who were responsible for the assassination of a police officer in the al-Fayyum Governorate. We could detain them within six hours, but we do not want to return to the days of indiscriminate rule [al-hukm al-Shumuli]. We do not want to shed the blood of these extremists, who have nothing to do with the tolerant Islamic religion. He added that an extremist minority will not be allowed to shake the security of 56 million citizens, and that confrontation is required with certain organizations that use violence and killing as a method of operation and do not recognize dialogue. Musa noted that most members of these organizations

are young people who had the opportunity to take part in political and religious dialogue but were swept away, unaware with the current.

'Rising' International Role for Cairo Seen

NC1603093292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Dr. Mustafa al-Fiqi, the president's secretary for information and follow-up, has affirmed that as a rising and developing power with great cultural and historical importance, Egypt is qualified to play a more influential role than before in Arab issues.

Speaking during a seminar entitled "World Changes and Their Effect on the Middle East," Dr. al-Fiqi pointed out that under current conditions, events in every part of the world influence the rest of the world. He said that the Middle East is a region most susceptible to events in other regions. He added that among the main regional powers, Egypt is the only Arab, Islamic country that is qualified, due to its moderate political role, to play an acceptable and influential role in the region.

Dr. al-Fiqi noted that the current world changes, leading to the emergence of the United States as the sole remaining superpower, might influence the status of the United Nations, turning it into an alliance for the strong at the expense of the weak. He stressed that unless the UN maintains a great deal of impartiality and strength, this will be a concern of the weak nations. He noted that the current situation—the fact that there is only one superpower—will not last long, because other powers are on the rise, such as a united Europe and the rising powers in Southeast Asia, particularly Japan.

Dr. al-Fiqi said that in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, some Arab countries were more eager to be part of the international sphere than the regional or pan-Arab spheres. He stressed that Egypt's role during the Gulf crisis proceeded from its historic role to fulfill its duty toward the Arab nation during times of crisis.

He denied reports that Israel had set up dams in Ethiopia to cut Egypt's share of Nile water, emphasizing that Egypt is alert to any threats to its share of Nile water. He stressed that the vast majority of Egyptians reject extremism and terrorism, appreciate calm religiousness, and refuse to use religion to frighten the people.

Newspaper Assails 'Fever' of 'U.S. Hegemony'

NC1503063892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—In its Sunday editorial, to be published tomorrow, AL-AHRAM criticizes what it describes as the "new fever" gripping the United States—a fever to impose U.S. hegemony worldwide now that it is the one and only power in the new world order.

The paper says the symptoms of this fever began appearing when the United States became the unrivaled world power, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and communism. This fever urges the United States to tighten its control over the world, and says that it is a U.S. right to do so, that the world is a fruit it has to pluck following the long cold war.

The paper adds that this fever urges the United States to think that it should play the role of global policeman. This philosophy is completely different from that which prevailed during the cold war, when America believed it had to play the police role only to protect its self-described interests.

AL-AHRAM mentions a reports that U.S. ships in the Gulf have been instructed to chase ships carrying Scud missiles from North Korea to Iran and Syria.

The paper concludes that the danger in this growing U.S. role lies in the possibility that it might exceed the legitimate limits of international laws, resolutions, and norms, and go too far in acting on the spur of the moment. If that happens, violations will be endless, the paper says.

Government Plans 'Accredited Bureau' in Eritrea

NC1303152492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to open an accredited bureau [Maktab Mu'tamad] in Eritrea to handle Egypt's relations with the provisional government of Eritrea.

The Foreign Ministry source said that Minister Plenipotentiary Muhammad 'Afifi Badr has been nominated as head of the bureau.

Libya

U.S. Evacuating Citizens Ahead of 'Aggression'

LD1603222392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Ibrahim Bakkar, Libyan secretary for justice and the interior [title as heard], said that the United States has started to evacuate its nationals from Libya in order to carry out military and economic aggression against it. He added that Washington has contacted European and Asian capitals that have a large workforce in Libya to give them clear signals to evacuate their nationals.

U.S. Warned of Repeating Reagan 'Mistake'

PM1603161592 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Mar 92 p 11

["Libya is Innocent and International Public Opinion Supports It"]

[Text] Within the framework of intensifying Arab efforts to avert the implementation of an economic boycott against Libya by Western states (Britain, France, and the United States), an Arab quarter has pointed out to Washington and London that it took a whole year to hand over an Irish terrorist to the British authorities after he escaped from prison to New York, and that U.S. authorities deported him only last week. This is with the knowledge that the Irishman was legally sent to prison for carrying out assassination operations in Northern Ireland. There is also an extradition treaty between Britain and the United States, to extradite those wanted in both countries.

The quarter also reminded Washington that it was conclusively proved that Libya had nothing whatsoever to do with the bombing incident in a German cafe frequented by U.S. Army personnel—which led to the air raid on Libya during President Reagan's era—and that U.S. authorities have full knowledge of those who planned it. The Arab quarter warned against "repeating that mistake."

It is known that London and Washington intend to raise again the question of handing over the two accused in the Lockerbie incident in the Security Council at the end of the week. Current Arab efforts seek to postpone this in the hope of arriving at a solution acceptable to all parties, especially now that Libya's innocence has been established, and Arab and international support for leader al-Qadhdhafi and the Jamahiriyah has grown.

Foreign Liaison Secretary on 'New World Order'

LD1203220292 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 10 Mar 92

["Arab Maghreb Union Pool" item]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 10 Mar (JANA)—The brother secretary of the Popular Committee for External Liaison and Cooperation received the credentials of new Malian Ambassador Ahmad Bakomo to the Great Jamahiriyah at 1200 today. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary of the Popular Committee for External Liaison affirmed that the great Jamahiriyah supports the struggle of the people of South Africa, and it affirms its support for the Palestinian people's uprising. It condemns the settling of Jewish immigrants in occupied Palestine—a matter that contradicts human rights. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary said in his speech that the world had seen with great speed deep changes and transformations which led to the collapse of the old world order and the emergence of a new world order. All the world's peoples, large and small, must inevitably help build it on an equal footing, an order that is dominated by justice, fair play, and respect for the sovereignty and freedom of the states under the aegis of UN protection and the UN Security Council final document issued after the 31 January 1992 summit. We believe that we will see the emergence of a fairer, securer world if the points in that document are respected. We will also see a world humanity in which the UN Charter's aims are upheld and in which there are guarantees to strengthen and improve the international organization's performance. They will also increase its effectiveness, and an atmosphere will be created in which all will abide by the international law and solve disputes between states peacefully and in accordance with the Charter's provisions. Consequently, the destabilization policy and the threat of aggression and confrontation will disappear, and the safety of territories of states and their integral parts and territorial waters will be guaranteed.

Al-Asad's 'Virulent Attack' on U.S. Praised

LD1603160592 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli (al-Rabia [March] 16) JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—JANA's Arab affairs editor praised the pan-Arab stance expressed by President Hafiz al-Asad in his speech while being sworn in to a fourth term in office in sisterly Syria two days ago.

In his analysis of a number of Arab and international issues the editor highlighted the main aspect of the speech—mainly the virulent attack by President al-Asad on the United States and the Zionist enemy and his insistence of Syria to accept the principle capitulation [as received].

He said that no country in the world could impose capitulation in any form. If anyone supposed that the changes in the world that people's are so easily taken in by are baseless attempts of false power than he couldn't be further from the truth because that person is not prepared and does not fully people have always been known to try and create a new situation of principles and capabilities which allow them to face new challenges. [sentence as received]

President al-Asad than asserted that all attempts by the Israelis to take advantage of the Arab situation in particular and the international situation in general had failed.

He also said that these attempts are exposed to the world and it is only possible that they are exposed. It is not possible in this situation which we are in for the enemy to attack or to violate the United Nations Charter and international laws.

JANA's Arab affairs editor then spoke about President al-Asad's virulent attack on the United States and the latter's attempt to undermine the Arabs' military capability to force them to give in to the Zionist preconditions at the negotiations.

President al-Asad said that the United States realises that a limit on weapons in the Middle East would entail depriving the Arabs of their weapons and an end to the export of weapons to them, while on the other hand the

Zionists are allowed to build factories for military purposes to manufacture weapons and to transform and improve the production of missiles with the financial support of the United States.

To emphasise this point President al-Asad spoke about the brouhaha caused by the United States concerning the Korean ship.

He said that the ship had not in fact been carrying missiles to Syria saying that Syria has its own missiles and will continue to obtain them according to her needs. The Israelis had requested that the USA should act to carry out a role of piracy and intercept ships destined for Syria and other countries.

He wondered how this could go along with the guidelines of the new world order which is said to be the world of international legitimacy.

What is this legitimacy? This is the legitimacy of the forest—the legitimacy of beasts.

The Arab affairs editor then highlighted President al-Asad's words when he spoke of how they wanted a limit on weapons. The first thing they should therefore do is to shut the Israeli factories which are building the atomic bomb, electronic missiles, tanks, and all types of small and large weapons.

On the subject of Arab unity President al-Asad stressed that it is only natural that Syria will influence and be influenced by what is happening in the Arab nation since she is a part of it. Given that Syrian peopte are a part of the Arab nation and therefore Syria has established its policy always based on achieving the goals of the Arab nation.

He highlighted Syria's work and efforts towards unity urging others to work for it whether that be with Syria or any other Arab country saying that the slogan of Arab solidarity raised by Syria and fully adopted by Syria a long time ago will always occupy a position of prime importance.

Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Hercegovina Recognized

LD1603184292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Mar (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has welcomed the declarations of independence by the republics of Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina as sovereign states.

A statement issued by the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said that the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah recognizes the independence of these republics, out of its faith in the peoples' right to determine their own fates and decide on their national choices.

The statement affirmed that the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation wishes to affirm its desire for continued relations of friendship and good cooperation, which bind the Great Jamahiriyah and the peoples of these states together. It also affirms the Great Jamahiriyah's readiness to develop relations in the common interest of all sides.

Kuwait

UN Pilots Return Two Warplanes Taken by Iraq

PM1303154592 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Inal 'Ursan report: "Skyhawk Aircraft Already Returned, and Others To Be Returned Overland"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has stated that two Kuwaiti Air Force A-4 Skyhawk aircraft arrived in Kuwait yesterday from Iraq in the course of the UN efforts to return Kuwaiti property seized by the Iraqi authorities during the criminal occupation of Kuwait. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT the source said that two aircraft of the same type had arrived in Kuwait the day before yesterday and that a fifth is due to arrive today. He added that the aircraft which have already arrived were in good technical condition and were flown by UN pilots.

As for the five other Skyhawk aircraft which the Baghdad regime claimed were destroyed or unserviceable, the source said that they would be returned to Kuwait by road in special trucks, in coordination with the United Nations, which is supervising this matter. [passage omitted]

Heir Apparent Warns Press Not To Exceed Bounds

LD1503205292 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, has affirmed the importance of the existence of security, stability, and the unity of ranks for all and the casting out of those who try to bring down the Kuwaiti wall.

He called for people to show caution and to be alert to the destruction of the internal front under the pretext of freedom of the press, which has on many occasions exceeded its bounds. He affirmed that those who do so are not serving the homeland but rather the enemies of Kuwait and its people.

The heir apparent and prime minister was speaking during his meeting yesterday with the chief editors of the local press and magazines in the presence of Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, information minister; Yusuf Muhammad al-Sumayt, chairman of the board of directors and director general of KUNA; Yusuf al-'Ilayan, president of the Kuwaiti Press Association; and members of the association's board of directors.

Shaykh Sa'ad said that some [words indistinct] of this freedom in preparation for the legislative elections. He called for the consideration of all that is needed to rebuild Kuwait in various fields and the upholding of the media code of honor and its noble objectives. He called on everyone to safeguard the unity of ranks, objectives, and the word, stating that our strength lies in our cohesion and cooperation. He affirmed that he has no objection to the principle of criticism provided that criticism does not turn into provocation.

He held the Kuwaiti Press Association responsible for what the papers publish in articles which have nothing to do with the homeland or the people. He emphasized the importance of the information media in the current conditions, saying it was no less important than [words indistinct]. He called on everyone to agree on a new page which will guarantee further stability, security, and prosperity for Kuwait. He said that freedom of the press was guaranteed by law and that the present and future of the country was currently a priority, for the battle with the Iraqi enemy continues.

During the meeting Shaykh Sa'ad touched on issues concerning the citizens' living conditions, the most important of which is the high price of goods. Shaykh Sa'ad said that the government would not keep silent on such matters due to its sense of responsibility for matters of interest to the citizens.

As for his highness' evaluation of the UN Security Council meetings this past weekend to question the Iraqi regime's representative on Baghdad's obstinate refusal to implement the UN resolutions on the cease-fire in the war for Kuwait's liberation, he noted that the Iraqi regime continues to procrastinate and maneuver in the hope that the Arab or international worlds will make some change or alteration to their positions. He pointed out that time will prove the falsehood of the Iraqi regime's allegations about the implementation of the Security Council resolutions. He asserted that the Iraqi regime continues to create obstacles and barriers in order to avoid heeding the UN resolutions.

Replying to a question on the difficult indebtedness [madyuniyah sa'bah], his highness pointed out that the government had its own idea on resolving this question, the name of which has been changed from the program of difficult indebtedness to the development of banking conditions. He added that this visualization has been formulated into a draft law which is being discussed by members of the National Council, who in turn will refer it to the Legislative and Economic Affairs Committees. He added that he expects the Council to discuss the draft law this week or next week.

At the conclusion of his meeting with the media, Shaykh Sa'ad emphasized that it was important for everyone to act within the framework of the public interest and to keep away from issues which some seek to use to provoke or instigate the citizens. He also emphasized the importance of the presence of security and stability. He later invited those present to join him in a fast-breaking meal on 18 March.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Corps Commanders

JN1503170992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, staff field marshal and commander in chief of the armed forces, chaired a meeting of corps commanders today.

During the meeting instructions were given stating that emphasis should be placed on observing proper military traditions, enforcing military regulations, and taking an interest in training.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of defense, and Staff Gen. Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

Saddam Meets With Scientists, Specialists

JN1403165692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn met today with a number of scientists and specialists in the industrial field to acquaint himself with their efforts to provide basic materials for industry and various fields of life under the circumstances of the unjust economic blockade.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, and Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the president's adviser.

Saddam Presents Medals to Military Figures

JN0903194392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, has bestowed medals of valor on a number of our valiant armed forces commanders and officers, on two heads of departments at the Presidential Office, and on a number of military and media escorts to the president, the commander in chief of the armed forces. [passage omitted]

The following, ladies and gentlemen, are the texts of the decrees:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican decree.

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters to protect the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq; and based on Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

1. Fighter Staff Major General 'Isam Mahmud 'Abdallah shall be granted one medal of valor.

2. Fighter Staff Brigadier Gen. Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih shall be granted three medals of valor.

3. The following fighters shall be granted two medals of valor each:

Fighter Staff Maj. Gen. Salim Jamil Dhannun Bulaysh.
Fighter Staff Maj. Gen. Khalid Husayn 'Ali.
Fighter Maj. Gen. 'Ali Hashim Kazim.
Fighter Navy Staff Maj. Gen. Lu'ayy Karam Muhammad Amin.
Fighter Maj. Gen. Sabah Jasim Husayn.
Fighter Maj. Gen. Jamal Muhammad Salih.
Fighter Staff Maj. Gen. pilot Khaldun Khattab Bakr.
Fighter Maj. Gen. pilot Nawwaf Ahmad Zubayr.
Fighter Maj. Gen. Muhammad Salih Isma'il Mustafa.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Shahin Yasin Muhammad.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Jasim 'Abdallah Khalaf.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Yasin Rashid Mustafa.
Fighter Brig. Gen. Mahmud 'Abdallah Ahmad.
Fighter Brig. Gen. Faysal 'Abd 'Ali al-Jaddu'
Fighter Brig. Gen. Basil Sadiq Amin.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Nizam Taha Mahmud.
Fighter Brig. Gen. Shakir 'Abd-al-Rida Hasan.
Fighter Brig. Gen. al-'Aybi Hashim Jabr.
Fighter Brig. Gen. Ja'far Sadiq Mahdi.
Fighter Brig. Gen. Nayif Salim Mullah Tuhi.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. pilot Talib Muhammad Kazim.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. pilot Muhammad Nusayyif Jasim.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. pilot Muhammad 'Abd-al-Muhsin Sultan.
Fighter Brig. Gen. Engineer Muhammad Husayn Salih.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Naji Khalifah Jasim.
Fighter Brig. Gen. Jassam Muhammad Turki Nasir.
Fighter Brig. Gen. pilot 'Atallah Jasim Muhammad al-Shati.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. pilot Safa' Hasan 'Ali al-'Asi.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Sa'd 'Ali 'Abbas.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Ahmad Yusuf Ahmad.
Fighter Brig. Gen. Navy Eng. 'Ali Salih Muhammad Humud.
Fighter Colonel physician 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad Sifil.
Fighter Staff Col. Najm 'Abdallah al-Sabti.
Fighter Col. Husayn Zibn Hasan Muhammad.
Fighter Col. Yahya 'Afwan Shayi'.
Fighter Col. Hasan 'Ali 'Abdallah.
Fighter Col. 'Abd Muhammad Nayil.
Fighter Col. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad 'Ubayd.
Fighter Staff Col. Jasim Muhammad Salih.
Fighter Staff Col. 'Isam 'Abdallah Husayn.
Fighter Staff Col. 'Abbas Hasan Jabr.
Fighter Staff Col. Turki Jujju Ahmad.
Fighter Staff Col. Muhammad Dawud Mish'al.

4. The following fighters shall each be granted one medal of valor:

Fighter Staff Major Gen. Hadi Mahmud Jasim.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Habib Muhammad Hamid.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Talal Kazim Hammad.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Budayi' 'Afar al-Satam.

Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Khawwam Ibrahim 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi.
Fighter Staff Brig. Gen. Salim Hafiz Mahdi.
Fighter Lieutenant Col. Riyad 'Isa Mijris.
Fighter Lt. Col. Sa'd 'Abd-al-Hamid Taha.
Fighter Lt. Col. Yasin Taha Muhammad Salman.
Fighter Staff Lt. Col. Nadim Faza' 'Abdallah.
Fighter Maj. pilot Salah 'Abdallah 'Hammadi.

The competant ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] President of the Republic Saddam Husayn

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican decree.

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following two fighters in protecting the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Motner of Battles, in defense of great Iraq; and based on Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Husam Khadduri Bihnam, head of the Engineering Department in the Presidential Office, and 'Abd-al-Ilah Hamid Muhammad, head of the Agricultural Affairs Department in the Presidential Office, shall each be granted one medal of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] President of the Republic Saddam Husayn

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican decree.

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters in protecting the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq; and based on Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

The following fighters shall each be granted one medal of valor:
Fighter Ra'd Mahdi Khayr.
Fighter Ra'd Yasin 'Abd-al-Razzaq.
Fighter Muhammad Ibrahim Aswad.
Fighter Raghib Jarallah Sha'ban.
Fighter 'Abdallah Muhammad Khalid.
Fighter Lazim 'Ali 'Abdallah.
Fighter 'Abdallah Zaydan Khalaf.
Fighter Saddiq Isma'il Khadr.
Fighter Khalid Rashid Nusayyif.
Fighter Makki 'Izz-al-Din Jasim.
Fighter Nabil Naji Ma'ruf.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] President of the Republic Saddam Husayn

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican decree.

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters in protecting the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq; and based on Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

1. Fighter Captain Talib Hammudi Mahmud shall be granted two medals of valor.

2. The following fighters shall each be granted one medal of valor:
Fighter Capt. 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hamad.
Fighter Capt. Ahmad Rajab Haddushi.
Fighter First Lt. 'Irfan Humud 'Abdallah.
Fighter First Lt. 'Ikrimah Salih Ahmad.
Fighter First Lt. Mu'ayyad Ibrahim Ahmad al-'Ayyad.
Fighter First Lt. 'Azzam Salih 'Abdallah.
Fighter First Lt. Sami Nuwayi'.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] President of the Republic Saddam Husayn

The medal-awarding ceremony was attended by Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister; Presidential Office chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi; and Staff Gen. Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From UN Talks

JN1603173992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad at noon today at the end of a visit to New York during which he led Iraq's delegation to the special meetings of the UN Security Council.

During the meetings he delivered a speech in which he reviewed Iraq's position on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions. The delegation is comprised of Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of officials and experts.

UN Envoy To Lead UN Talks on Oil 'This Week'

JN1603210892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] United Nations, 16 Mar (INA)—It was officially announced at the United Nations at noon today that the UN delegation to the second round of oil negotiations with Iraq will be headed by Giandomenico Picco, assistant secretary general for political affairs.

An INA correspondent in New York said that Iraq's delegation to the talks, which will open in Vienna toward the end of this week, will be headed by Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations.

Mr. Picco will replace Kofi Annan, who chaired the first round of talks in January.

The INA correspondent said that the administrative changes recently made by the UN secretary general moved Mr. Annan from his old position to the new post of assistant secretary general for peacekeeping affairs.

Formation of 'New Secret Leadership' Reported

PM1303141092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11 Mar 92 pp 1, 6

['Adnan Husayn report: "Saddam Forms New Secret Leadership"]

[Excerpt] London, Damascus, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Iraqi officials who recently broke away from the ruling party in Iraq have revealed that Saddam Husayn has formed a new secret leadership from among his closest supporters and relatives to replace the Revolution Command Council [RCC], the party's Regional Command, and the military bureau, which all shared power and implemented the measures decided upon by the Iraqi ruler. The new leadership's task is to "clean house" from within.

One significant point is the exclusion from the leadership group of Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and Army Chief of Staff Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, none of whom is related to Saddam. The officials, who have arrived in Europe, told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the new leadership comprises three levels: a decisionmaking center, an implementation group, and a follow-up committee. Saddam Husayn placed him at the head of the decisionmaking center. It was decided that the previous leadership frameworks should formally continue their work and implement orders according to their own specializations. They said that the decisionmaking center includes—apart from Saddam—RCC Deputy Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim; Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid; Sab'awi Ibrahim (Saddam's half brother), the official in charge of intelligence; and Kamil Yasin (al-Takriti), party command member. They all meet daily. At present they reside at, and move together from, a single location where they receive reports and information from the relevant quarters. The dissident officials said that the group implementing the decisions includes former Defense Minister Husayn Kamil (Saddam's son-in-law), who was recently put in charge of the weapons arsenal when he was reappointed head of the Military Industrialization Organization early this month. It also includes Prime Minister Muhammad al-Zubaydi; Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim (Saddam's half brother); Khadr al-Duri, the party command member responsible for the north; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Duri, the party command member responsible for the central region; Muhammad Zimam, the official responsible for the south; and Muzhir Matni and Mizban Khadr Hadi, both from Saddam's so-called "National Bureau," which is usually assigned special missions such as liquidating adversaries within the party and among the authorities. The fleeing Iraqi officials said that the follow-up committee comprises Saddam's secretary, Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi; his son, 'Udayy; and Parliamentary Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih. He added that the committee, like the decisionmaking center, is in permanent session to ensure that decisions are implemented. They pointed out that Saddam Husayn concealed these groups from his party, military, and administrative organs to avoid causing the others to feel that their loyalty to him is in doubt. They said that he planned to "purge the house from within" in the period ahead, for lists of hundreds of regular Army and Republican Guard officers have been compiled in a file entitled "cowards" prior to their dismissal or execution. News of the list has leaked to Army units and spread alarm among commanders, who have no means of escaping because the siege on exits from Baghdad has been tightened. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Military Industries Converted

JN1503140292 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 12 Mar 92 p 4

[Interview with Industry and Minerals Minister 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di by 'Abbas al-Janabi and 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Banna'; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Minister, as you know there is currently a media clamor over Iraqi military production, military industrialization, or military factories, as Western media put it. BABIL's editorial a few days ago said that with this phenomenon the Americans, the British, and their allies seek to once again penetrate Iraq, or to pressure it through such utterances concerning its military production. Meanwhile, an Iraqi delegation headed by Tariq 'Aziz is currently visiting the United Nations. Western media reports, which could be true, say that 'Aziz will present proposals with regard to converting a number of military factories into factories for producing civilian goods. What is your comment on this issue?

[Al-Sa'di] As you know I am now the minister of industry and minerals. In mid-1991 military industrialization was separate from the Ministry of Industry. Military industrialization was also subject to destruction, as was the case with civilian installations. In light of my connection with military industrialization, after the Iraqi-Iranian war our policy was to convert a large number of military factories into civilian industries. There are many examples and figures to prove this policy. Heavy and light hardware and weapons, all types of ammunition, aircraft bombs, and items to meet the armed forces' needs which were manufactured by military industry during the long war with Iran, were produced in large quantities to meet the needs of the armed forces in the battles that used to consume large quantities of weapons. The artillery battles alone and the quantities of ammunition accumulated compared to those of World War II battles. Therefore, in the final years of the war with Iran great emphasis was placed on military production and industrialization. Even civilian factories used to supply military factories with some of their needs. After the victory in 1988,

however, there was a clear shift toward civilian industries. For example, the machines and equipment in installations which used to manufacture safety valves for artillery and for aircraft bombs were modified to produce pressure pumps for refrigerators and air conditioners. The manufacturing process was successful, and we were on our way to expanding this project. Also, we worked to manufacture cars, not just assemble them. Military industries can supply this industry with its requirements such as engines and axles. The trend toward conversion was clear. It was a sound political policy to best exploit material and human capabilities to serve the economy. The enemies did not like this, either. If the proposal which Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will present is to convert military factories into civilian ones, then this is merely to underscore a fact that has actually been implemented on the ground. Investment figures prove that there was a shift toward converting military industries into civilian ones and that such a thing is real and not at all strange.

For example, the Salah al-Din installation had a plan to produce specialized electronic devices, among which were small and household recorders. It actually began to produce some types of computers and civilian switchboards. Increasing telephone communications requires two things: optical-fiber cables—we were actually working on these—and switchboards and their equipment. This is what is required. We were proceeding according to an objective plan. The telecommunications department would then announce the availability of lines for those citizens who wanted to apply for telephones and would encourage them to do so. This would be better than the current situation. [passage omitted]

Minister Urges Stepped-Up Reconstruction Drive

JN1503181092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has said that the competent agencies and citizens must make concerted efforts to epitomize and translate into tangible action the following statement made by leader President Saddam Husayn: Iraq is the homeland of all, and defending its security and sovereignty is the responsibility of all.

In a meeting with al-Muthanna Governor Muhsin Khadr al-Khafaji during a visit to al-Muthanna Governorate, the minister added that efforts must be stepped up to rebuild what the evildoers destroyed in their aggression, as well as the property sabotaged during the chapter of treachery and treason, for this is the response denoting true defiance of enemies.

The interior minister affirmed the need to improve work patterns in the governorate and to coordinate workers' efforts to ensure their effective and persistent contribution toward building the homeland, ensuring its resurgence, and reinforcing its stability, for this is the responsibility of all Iraqis.

The interior minister urged all officials in the governorate's departments to shoulder their responsibilities by identifying and tackling all deficiencies through cooperative and responsible action.

Official Announces 21 Oil Projects Completed

JN1003143092 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 10, INA—Engineers and technicians of oil projects company have recently completed work on 21 projects at a total cost of more than 35 million Iraqi dinars.

Head of the company, Dr Falih Hasan al-Khayyat was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) as saying that the cost of the damage sustained by the company's projects as a result of the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq totalled some 270 million Iraqi dinars.

Dr al-Khayyat said that priority was given to the reconstruction work of the northern oil installations and facilities to provide refineries with crude oil, adding that the second stage covered work to increase production capacity of the southern oil-fields.

He added that staff of the company have taken part in the reconstruction of gas processing installations in the southern region. Among these projects are reconstruction campaign of the degassing station in al-Shamiyah and the degassing station No. 4 of northern al-Rumaylah oil fields. The two stations were heavily damaged by allied bombing during the war.

Moreover, the company's staff succeeded in repairing oil pipeline stretching between al-Nasiriyah and al-Basrah, Dr al-Khayyat said, adding that they have also repaired and maintained the first production line of al-Basrah refinery.

Work now is underway to construct al-Zubayr-al-Faw oil pipeline that will help boost export capacity of the southern region, said Dr al-Khayyat, adding that work was implemented in cooperation with heavy engineering equipment department and southern and northern oil companies.

Students Asked To Recycle Wastepaper

JN1503153392 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 10 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The Ministry of Industry and Minerals has called on the National Federation of Iraqi Students to urge students to carry out a new campaign to collect wastepaper and deliver it to the federation's centers in Baghdad and the governorates so that the ministry's competent agencies can recycle it and thus meet a large part of students' needs for notebooks and schoolbooks.

The ministry has addressed a memorandum to the federation in this regard pointing out the importance of wastepaper as a basic material that can be used by

factories for the pulp needed to produce paper and pasteboard in light of the unjust economic blockade.

Merchants Ordered To Declare Stockpiled Goods

JN1503184492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Trade; date and place not given]

[Text] Statement No. 3 issued in accordance with the provisions enshrined in Trade Regulation Law No. 20 of 1970:

1. Merchants are obliged to inform the Ministry of Trade of their storage sites and of the quantities of the commodities that they are storing. Any storage in areas other than declared sites shall be considered a case of monopoly to which the pertinent laws and decisions shall apply.

2. Merchants shall be given one month to provide the information contained in the aforementioned paragraph 1 from the date that this statement is issued.

3. Violators shall be subject to punitive measures outlined in amended Trade Regulation Law No. 20 of 1970 as well as legislation already in force.

[Signed] Trade Minister Muhammd Mahdi Salih

Dealers Urged To Combat Theft of Official Cars

JN1503163092 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 10 Mar 92 p 5

[By 'Adil al-'Ardawi]

[Excerpt] Baghdad municipality has urged car dealers in the al-Karkh and al-Rasafah neighborhoods to rise to their national responsibilities and help curb thefts of government-owned cars and equipment. They were also urged to report any suspicious auto deals offered to them to be transacted through their showrooms.

Baghdad Mayor Suhayl Muhammad Salih al-Hashimi announced that the municipality has readied new alternative sites for the present showroom locations in the two neighborhoods. The move to the new sites will take place within six months. Access by the showroom proprietors to the new locations will depend on their cooperation with Interior Ministry security personnel and on whether they report stolen government vehicles. The competent authorities have been reliably informed that certain showroom owners were involved in trading in stolen cars after replacing some of their parts and falsifying the relevant paperwork.

The mayor of Baghdad emphasized the need for showrooms to abide by the law or face its full rigor.

In cooperation with the Interior Ministry, the municipality will shut down showrooms if it is proven that they are involved in buying, selling, smuggling, or transporting stolen government vehicles. They will also face the prospect of their business licenses being revoked. Besides being banned from bidding to buy municipal property, they may also face legal action. [passage omitted]

Steps Taken Against Black-Market Medicine Sales

JN1703122492 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Mar 92 pp 8, 2

[By Bushra Muhammad Shabib]

[Excerpts] Baghdad—The Health Ministry and the agencies responsible for combating economic crimes have adopted deterrent measures against those who commit violations which harm the citizens' health and against those who illegally promote and sell medicines on the black market.

While the agencies for combating economic crimes have identified 20 pharmacies in Baghdad as having violated regulations, the Health Ministry announced that inspection and checking operations on pharmacies in Baghdad and the governorates have been intensified to monitor the activities of these pharmacies, pinpoint violations, and adopt appropriate punitive measures against the violators. [passage omitted]

Sources at the agencies for combating economic crimes say that many negative manifestations recently surfaced under false pretexts such as the promotion and sale by some weak-spirited people of certain types of medicines whose origin is unknown, and the sale by pharmacies in remote areas of their monthly quota of medicines to pharmacies in central Baghdad at commercial prices, after adding a certain margin of profit. This has led to the prices of some medicines increasing by six to 20 times their original prices, particularly medicines for chronic diseases, which are being sold at exorbitant prices. One box of Aldomid brand blood pressure pills is being sold for 280 dinars, but its official price is not to exceed two dinars. The same applies to medicines for diabetes, heart ailments, and other chronic diseases. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Arens Interviewed on Loans

'The Matter Is Closed'

TA1703073292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens in Washington by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Defense Minister Moshe Arens is on the line from Washington. Good evening, sir.

[Arens] And a good morning to you.

[Zohar] In the wake of the U.S. reports that the White House has rejected the latest compromise on the guarantees issue, will Israel now drop its request for loan guarantees for immigrant absorption?

[Arens] Look, I do not think there is any question of our dropping anything. We submitted a request, and right now it looks like that request will not be granted. That is all.

[Dan] Does this mean we have reached the end of the road in this respect?

[Arens] I think that as far as this request is concerned—if we are to believe the reports that the U.S. Administration will reject it—the matter is closed.

[Zohar] Is there no room for our reconsidering our readiness to make concessions in exchange for these guarantees?

[Arens] I do not think so. I think the conditions they tried to pose were impossible conditions, which no Israeli Government can accept. I think it was obvious from the start that an Israeli Government could not accept these conditions.

[Dan] Will the issue be raised at the meeting between you and Secretary of State Baker?

[Arens] I will be able to tell you that only after the meeting.

[Zohar] There has been conjecture—at least in the United States such a view was aired, providing one of the few pro-Israeli arguments that are potentially conducive to a compromise—that the administration's decision is liable to affect adversely the peace process. Do you share this assessment?

[Arens] I do not share this assessment, as I see no connection between the guarantees issue and the peace process. Our interest in the peace process is greater than that of any other party participating in the process, and we will do all we can to promote the process.

[Dan] Mr. Arens, this question refers to the leaks regarding Israeli weapons exports: Do you feel the administration was somehow party to these leaks or these reports?

[Arens] I cannot say. The leaks were all from anonymous sources, and right now I am unable to point to the party, who has refused to be identified, on the one hand, and who has almost daily slandered Israel with another lie, on the other.

[Zohar] Could you address the latest report, which was released last night by one of the American television networks, alleging that Israel sold 155-mm shells to China?

[Arens] Well, we hear new reports almost daily. First came the report that said we sold Patriot missiles to China, then the one about our selling Arrow technology to South Africa, and now I understand there is a story about Copperhead artillery shells that we sold to I do not know whom. We have never purchased this shell, and this whole story is nonsense.

[Dan] What is the current situation in this respect between the United States and Israel? Did your meeting with Cheney clear the atmosphere to any extent at all?

[Arens] The atmosphere between me and Secretary Cheney was good. We will try to help the United States disprove these libelous allegations, although, as I told the secretary of defense, I believe some damage has already been done. I even fear that because the slurs were accorded such extensive publicity, the damage may be irreversible.

[Dan] And yet, does not the dispatch of a commission that will come to inspect things in Israel reflect a vote of absolute no confidence in Israel?

[Arens] No, I do not think so. I think—and I was told as much by Secretary Cheney—the administration would like to produce proof that will disprove the leaks, and there is no reason why we should not help them.

[Zohar] What exactly will this commission do here? Will it count the missiles?

[Arens] Well, the number of our missiles is known, and therefore the task of proving that we have sold neither missiles nor parts of missiles is a very easy one.

[Dan] Mr. Arens, some commentators here argue that this entire affair stems from the U.S. desire to deprive Israel of its unique strategic standing because, with the end of the cold war and other international developments, the United States no longer needs Israel the way it did in the past.

[Arens] First of all, I do not know who the sources of these distortions and lies are, but I believe these are people who do not want U.S.-Israeli relations to grow stronger; on the contrary, they would like to harm these relations. I would not hasten to say that this is the administration's intention.

[Dan] Do you not feel that the administration is trying to signal to us that our present standing is different from what it used to be?

[Arens] I do not feel that way, and in fact, it is my view that despite the demise of the cold war, the strategic ties between Israel and the United States in the coming years will be more important to the United States than they were in the past.

[Zohar] Defense Minister Moshe Arens in Washington, thank you very much.

[Arens] Thank you.

Sees 'No Point' in New Request

TA1703070692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Ori Nir and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] Washington—The U.S. Administration has rejected the compromise proposal raised by Senate leaders regarding the negotiations for the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption, and has made it clear that it has no intention of backing down on the conditions it presented for giving the guarantees—primarily the freezing of new construction in settlements in the territories. Following the administration's announcement, pro-Israeli activists and Israeli elements in Washington said that the effort to get the guarantees from the United States has failed, that the issue is now closed, and that this marks the end of the road unless a last-minute change takes place.

Pro-Israeli activists in Washington and senior Senate figures have cited the administration as making it categorically clear that any attempt by Congress to promote legislation that is not based on an accord with the administration will be vetoed by President Bush.

Such a decision was expected in Jerusalem, where the feeling in recent days has been that with the guarantees having become an obstacle hampering Bush's race with his Republican rival Patrick Buchanan, both President George Bush himself and the State Department would prefer to postpone the decision until after the elections in Israel and the primaries in the United States. Upper Likud echelons are now getting ready to launch a public relations offensive based on the argument that the administration's conduct regarding the guarantees issue, as well as the weapons affair, attests to its hostility toward the Government of Israel.

Addressing the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership yesterday, Defense Minister Moshe Arens referred to the guarantees issue. Arens, who was apparently notified that the attempts to secure the guarantees seem to have failed, said: "We are a small but proud nation, and we will not grovel. We will not beg for help." He added that although Israel still hopes that its Washington friends will help its immigrant absorption efforts, it is determined to adhere to its principles. "If they (the administration heads) decide to append intolerable conditions (to the guarantees), we will do it ourselves, with your help, without bearing any grudges and while maintaining our esteem for the United States," Arens told the Jewish leaders. "I know we can do it, and we will."

Arens's speech was very bitter, and his tone reflected his regret over the administration's adamant stand on the settlement issue. He said the settlements are not an obstacle to peace but just the opposite. "When people make a big deal out of settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, that can eventually prove to be an obstacle to peace," he said. Referring to the administration's conditions for the guarantees, he said: "The demand being made of us is that we abandon a key component of Israel's defense doctrine in exchange for this humanitarian aid. This is something we cannot do." [passage omitted]

Israeli sources in Washington said yesterday that in the wake of the failure to achieve a compromise between Congress and the administration, the White House made it clear that it will not hesitate to fight any attempt on the part of Congress to unilaterally pass legislation concerning the guarantees. This sharp message provoked great anger among members of the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington. [passage omitted]

[A similar report in Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 17 March by Washington-based correspondent Rami Tal on pages 1 and 13 adds that the defense minister said that "he sees no point in submitting another request to the administration. Asked why $2 billion of the guarantees were included in the state budget for the current year, the minister said ironically: 'Anything can be put on paper.'"]

Shamir Spokesman on 'Orchestrated Campaign'

TA1703114392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] In Jerusalem, the prime minister's spokesman Ehud Gol said Israel has not yet been officially informed that the U.S. Administration has rejected the compromise proposed by Senator Leahy. Minister Arens still has to meet Secretary of State Baker, Gol said. When we receive the report of that meeting, we shall decide whether to react, but even if the administration has rejected the compromise, it will not change Israel's basic position, Gol stressed. Israel will not agree to any linkage between the humanitarian issue of immigrant absorption and the political issue of settlement in the territories.

I asked Ehud Gol for his reaction to the latest American press report alleging Israel sold U.S. weapons illegally. This time it was alleged to be the Copperhead laser-guided shell. He replied: We cannot react to every piece of nonsense that gets published. It is an orchestrated campaign, and every day another newspaper comes out with something else. I don't think we should take it seriously anymore, Gol said.

Comment Sees 'Real' Change in U.S.-Israel Ties

TA1703122192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 92 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "It Will Cost Us Dearly"]

[Text] According to the well-known joke, the psychiatrist gave the patient suffering from an inferiority complex this good news: "You are not suffering from a complex; you are inferior!" A revised version can be applied to our current relations with the United States. The same psychiatrist could reassure us: "You are not suffering from paranoia; you really are being hounded!"

Well, there have been too many leaks, too many things said, too much friction at too frequent intervals for us to treat the matter as though we are being paranoid. What is happening is real, hard to take, and worrisome, and it is another symptom of the change in the current administration's policy toward Israel.

If the charge that Israel is exporting U.S. technology could be isolated, it could be viewed as a banal dispute between two military industries competing for world markets. The U.S. military industry has always opposed the transfer of sophisticated technology to Israel. It fights it and, in many instances, has prevented Israeli firms from winning tenders issued by the Pentagon. In the new world, in which arms supplies exceed demand, the fight over customers has become much tougher. In the United States and in Israel, large cutbacks can be expected in these industries. It is therefore natural that the U.S. industry treats its Israeli competitor, which has exports of over $2 billion, as something not to be dismissed out of hand, especially not in a market thirsty for high technology.

On the assumption that it is not angels who handle these matters in both countries, it is only natural that not all 613 mitzvot are being honored in the race. There have been cases in which original Israeli developments in weapons systems received from the United States found their way to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and vice versa.

When such disputes were uncovered and verified in the past—and it is not easy to prove that a violation has occurred or an agreement has not been honored—they aroused anger but were resolved quietly, for the simple reason that relations between the two countries were based on mutual trust and neither side wanted to break the rules of the game. What could be explained was explained, what had to end ended, and the defense and political relations between the two countries continued as usual, although not without some teeth clenching by some circles in the Pentagon, the CIA, and the State Department, where the special relationship between the two countries was always a thorn in their side.

The gravity of the present incident lies in the very fact that it is taking place publicly and in its bluntness. It is not linked to the Arens visit to Washington or to mustering public opinion to oppose loan guarantees to Israel. Bush already has broad, almost wall-to-wall support for holding up the loan guarantees to Israel this year, and he will not grant them unless Shamir undertakes to freeze settlement.

The campaign of leaks and the soon to be published report by the State Department inspector general, which are full of baseless lies about Israel, are additional nails in the coffin of the "special relationship" between the two countries. The current administration has not only lost trust in the present Israeli Government but has also built up animosity toward it. Bush and Baker—who believe that Israel is ignoring all their requests, is leading them by the nose, and is even provoking them—do not feel that they have any special reason to be nice to it. The expression "Fuck the Jews" [last three words in English], which was or was not uttered, reflects what they are saying privately: Who do the Israelis think they are? Do they think they can get $4 billion in annual aid and another $10 billion for immigrant absorption from us and still totally ignore our requests and U.S. interests?

This week's affair is therefore not only the start of the domino effect, but also a sign of bad times to come. On the "Good Morning, Israel" television program this week, U.S. expert Tzvi Rafiah predicted that, in his view, it is a veiled threat to withhold procurement from the United States and Israeli defense exports.

If that threat is implemented, there is room for concern: Without procurement we do not have security, and without defense exports we do not have a military industry. The American message is becoming more and more clear: Relations between the two countries will never go back to being what they were; there will be no more free lunches. They will no longer treat us with leniency. If Israel is not prepared to understand the bitter truth that U.S. aid has strings attached, it may find itself next year facing the danger of cuts also being made to the $4 billion we already have in our pocket in defense and economic aid.

A few months ago, Zalman Shoval, our ambassador to the United States, said that the Israeli Government will have to decide between loan guarantees and settlement, for which he was sharply reprimanded.

But those who treat the administration of President Bush as though he were Shoval and slap his wrists, as though we deserve everything we receive without giving back anything in return, should start to understand that it will cost us dearly.

Analysis of Factors Behind Arms Sales Policy

TA1603113792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Mar 92 p B2

[Article by Yosi Melman: "Sales Above All"]

[Text] Last weekend, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and official Beijing spokesmen hastened to deny reports that

Israel had sold China either all or parts of the Patriot missile. It stands to reason that Israel would be incapable of such an act, which could backfire, because if the reports that Patriot data and technologies are being transferred to the Chinese are true, they—as well as the weapon systems that the data and technologies would help to upgrade—could end up in the hands of Israel's enemies in the future.

But reason is not always the guiding factor behind Israel's weapons sales policies. Reason is sometimes pushed aside by greed, pressure from arms dealers, and short-sighted policies. Thus, foreign sources reported, for instance, that U.S. intelligence found out several years ago that Chinese-made long-range surface-to-surface missiles had been deployed in Saudi Arabia. The reports averred that Israeli expertise and technical personnel had been auxiliary in the upgrading of these missiles. Although the Saudis explained that the missiles were purchased to deter Iran, who can guarantee that they will not be passed on to Syria if war breaks out? And furthermore, recent foreign press reports said that China was selling Syria and Iraq missiles which had also been upgraded with Israeli technologies.

What we learn from these reports is that the aforementioned fact has never deterred the Israeli defense industry, which—according to the reports—started exporting to China with the mediation of arms dealer Sha'ul Eisenberg. And although official figures on Israel's arms sales to China are unavailable, foreign media allege that the deals involved billions of dollars.

The fact that China has agreed to purchase weapons from Israel does not attest merely to these weapons systems' characteristics, but also to the uniqueness of Israel's policy. One of the conditions China attaches to every trade deal—civilian as well as military—is a demand to receive a permit to manufacture the purchased articles. This policy, which stems from the traditional "self-reliance" ideology and from limited foreign currency reserves, has deterred Western countries from selling certain weapons systems to China. Israel, however, has not been all that choosy and has thus been able to fill the slot left vacant by Western countries—if we are to believe the foreign reports. Israeli industry is eager to sell, and from its viewpoint, even a $100-million deal that includes the sale of equipment, technology, and know-how for independent production is worthwhile.

And if Israel's defense establishment ostensibly has control mechanisms that should prevent or delay the possibility of new weapons systems or information indirectly reaching the enemy, in practice these mechanisms are incapable of doing that. This is the result of the anomalous modus operandi of the Israeli defense system, in which the Defense Ministry is directly and indirectly both the consumer and the owner of most Israeli weapons industries, and as the owner, it has to ensure employment for tens of thousands of workers. The weapons industries, for their part, are mainly motivated by a desire to provide their personnel with jobs and by a survival instinct, which is characteristic of every establishment. Thus, the Defense Ministry finds it difficult to say no to the weapons industries, even when it knows for a fact that the export of certain systems will jeopardize the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] most vital interests.

It thus appears that Israeli readiness to sell weapons is limitless. As can be learned from reports issued by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, there is hardly a country in Asia, Africa, and South America—in addition to the United States and some West European countries—that has not been a target for Israel's weapon sales. Yet, if until recently this policy "only" jeopardized the IDF's security interests, now it is also threatening Israel's relations with the United States in general and the weapons supplies from the United States in particular.

Further Press Comment

TA1503132292

[Editorial Report] All Israeli newspapers on 15 March carry editorials and commentaries on U.S. media reports alleging Israeli arms and technology sales in violation of agreements with the United States. All newspapers, with the exception of 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew, reject the allegations and attribute the affair to the U.S. desire to inconvenience Israel in various ways.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ military commentator Ze'ev Schiff, in a page-A1 commentary entitled "The U.S. Intelligence Report Is Not Necessarily Reliable," refers to the alleged transfer of Patriot technology to China, asserting that U.S. intelligence has been known "to make grave errors," as was the case with "Iraq's years-long development of mass destruction weapons." Because of the Bush-Shamir "confidence crisis," Schiff believes that "the White House and some administration circles tend to believe in the veracity of almost any charges brought against Israel."

Schiff states that over the weekend, "Arens ordered a thorough internal probe to see that no mistake had been made. The probe involved the IDF, including the chief of staff and the Air Force commander, and the Defense Ministry. In the wake of the probe, Israel's denial of the charges has become even more adamant."

Schiff concludes that the reports were the result of both "a bitter disagreement inside the administration" over whether Israel should be granted new technologies and the fact that "elements in the U.S. defense industries, whose action is prompted by economic competition," have "become most aggressive in the wake of extensive defense budget slashes and a dwindling international arms market."

An editorial entitled "An Unprecedented Offensive," on page 2 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew opens by stating: "The timing was certainly not accidental: While Defense Minister Moshe Arens was on his way to the United States and to a meeting with his

counterpart, Richard Cheney, U.S. media launched an unprecedented offensive, obviously aiming to embarrass Arens and besmirch Israel's reputation." The editorial attributes the attack to "a senior figure's initiative."

The YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial goes on to assert that to disprove the "malicious theory," it is enough to state "several facts to which the anonymous sources were oblivious." One such fact is that Israel knows from its own "sad experience how ineffective the Patriot is," and the other that "none knows better than the Arrow planners how far from completion its technology is and why its test launches had failed."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew carries two related commentaries on page 1. A commentary by Alex Fishman entitled "Is It Possible?" lists the defense products allegedly sold by Israel and concludes: "This ancient list is ridiculous, and it proves that the motive behind the publication was political."

A commentary by Amnon Barzilay entitled "Why Do They Leak?" compares the U.S. move to the establishment of settlements in the territories during James Baker's past visits to Israel. It concludes that both countries' actions "were designed to awaken the national spirit in a bid to thwart political moves. Although the two cases are patently different, it is obvious that the rules of the political game are becoming increasingly tougher as the confrontation between the two countries becomes more bitter."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on page 9 carries an editorial entitled "Deals Requiring a Probe." Unlike the other newspapers, 'AL HAMISHMAR contends that "the fact that the leaked reports are tendentious and politically motivated does not necessarily indicate that they are not basically true." It adds that if the alleged sales were indeed made, "they are liable to jeopardize Israel's security and its defense ties with the United States." The editorial argues that since "the government's denials alone are not deemed trustworthy by either the international or the Israeli public," the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee should initiate an independent parliamentary probe into government activities in this sphere.

Israeli Parts in MiG-23's; Missiles in Baghdad

TA1603100292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Mar 92 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Czechoslovakia recently sold MiG-23's containing Israeli-made aeronautic components to Egypt and another North African country, an Israeli minister reported a few weeks ago upon his return from a visit to Prague. It is not clear how the sophisticated equipment made its way to the Russian-made plane, which is also sold to Syria, but the minister said his hosts had told him that Israeli-made components are mounted on other items that are sold on demand. Trucks carrying Israeli-made missiles were photographed recently in a military parade in Baghdad.

In private talks with his close associates yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he feared the leaks to the media on the arms sales agreements with the United States had been orchestrated by Washington's highest echelon in a bid to deal a blow to the government. Nevertheless, Shamir refrained from publicly criticizing the U.S. Administration and did not include the crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations on the agenda of yesterday's cabinet meeting. [passage omitted]

Levi, Belgian Discuss Equipment Bound for Iran

TA1603125392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Israel has advised the Belgian Government of its concern regarding Belgian companies' selling Iran equipment that will enable it to develop nuclear weapons. Foreign Minister David Levi raised Israel's concern in a meeting with the director general of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who is currently visiting Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the guest promised to block the deals.

Police Commander on Tel Aviv-Yafo Attack

TA1703095192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0852 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Interview with Tel Aviv Police Commander Yig'al Marcus by Ron Nesi'el in the broadcasting van in Yafo—live]

[Excerpt] [Nesi'el] Tel Aviv Police Commander Yig'al Marcus is now in our broadcasting van, and he will deliver the authorized version of this morning's stabbing incident and the subsequent police action. Can you describe the events, Commander Marcus?

[Marcus] Good morning. At around 0900 [0700 GMT] this morning, a truck from the territories stopped on Elat Street and an Arab youth, whom we can now identify as a resident of the Gaza Strip, descended carrying two knives—a very large one and a smaller one. He proceeded to attack the passersby. After that, he attacked teenage girls from Holon who were attending a Purim party.

The casualty toll is two dead—an adult and one of the girls—and some 12 wounded, mostly girls. I am happy to note that most of the girls suffered slight injuries. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 17 March identifies the dead adult as "an Arab garage owner from Yafo."]

A border policeman stationed in Tel Aviv, who happened to be in the area, fired at the assailant and wounded him fatally. The terrorist later died. He was apparently also shot by a taxi driver, who was stabbed too, but this aspect is still being investigated.

[Nesi'el] Is it now absolutely clear that there was only one assailant? We heard various evidence about two, one of whom escaped.

[Marcus] No, we have reached the unequivocal conclusion that there was only one assailant. Furthermore, we detained the driver of the truck that dropped him off, and from his initial testimony, we learned that the assailant acted alone.

[Nesi'el] What can you tell us about the assailant, beyond his being a Gaza resident? Did he belong to a radical Islamic organization?

[Marcus] He was from Gaza, was about 30 years old, and had a beard. We found a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet on his body. The leaflet is now being translated, and I therefore cannot tell you its contents. These are the initial details. As I said, he was fatally wounded and died in the hospital. We are searching our computer data for information about this Arab, and we have naturally informed the Shin Bet, which will investigate the issue from its angle. [passage omitted]

Left-, Right-Wing Factions React

TA1703115692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Here are some of the reactions by political factions following this morning's terrorist attack. The left wing proposed closing the Green Line, while the right wing demanded an immediate halt to the peace negotiations. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

Knesset members from all factions sent their condolences to the families of those murdered and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. The terrorists who attack innocent bystanders in the midst of our cities should be killed on the spot as soon as they draw the knife, said Likud Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Landau. The border policeman who did his job today and shot to kill the terrorist should be congratulated, Landau added.

Labor MK Yosi Beilin, a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, called for closing the Green Line in the wake of the murders in Yafo. Beilin said that this proposal, which he and several of his colleagues have already raised in the past, could prevent such occurrences.

The right-wing Tehiya faction declared: The bestial murder in Yafo is the result of the helplessness shown by the Israeli Government in the wake of each Arab atrocity. The Tehiya called on the cabinet to hold an emergency session today and decide to halt the negotiations in Washington. The Tehiya also demanded that the security authorities be instructed to hermetically seal off the Green Line to intifadah activists and to deport the thousands of intifadah activists known to the authorities.

The left-wing MERETZ faction, composed of the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy, asserted that the Arab stabbings must stop completely before life in Israel becomes a living hell for both Jews and Arabs. MERETZ demanded that the Palestinian leadership in the territories vehemently condemn the murderers, even if the latter do not accept its authority. MERETZ declared that in carrying out this atrocious act, the terrorists acted like wild animals.

576 Palestinians Murdered During Intifadah

TA1003203892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Four Arabs have been murdered in the territories by fellow Arabs since the beginning of this week, bringing to 576 the number of Palestinians murdered by their brethren since the beginning of the intifadah. Our correspondent Amir Hay has learned from the Israeli Army spokesman in the territories that 24 Arabs were murdered by fellow Arabs in February, almost a 40-percent rise over January 1992.

Iraq's 'Aziz Stops in Amman En Route to Baghdad

JN1503211292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz stopped off in Amman today, on his way back to Baghdad from New York. On hand to greet him at Queen Alia International Airport were Mr. Mahmud al-Sharif, acting foreign minister and information minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. [passage omitted]

Received by Crown Prince

JN1703090892 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Amman—PETRA—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who was on his way back to Baghdad from New York, at the Royal Hashemite Court yesterday morning.

'Aziz had attended the UN Security Council session dealing with the sanction resolutions against Iraq.

Foreign Minister on Future Peace Talks, Iraq

NC1503082092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir by Voice of Lebanon correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik in New York]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Begin recording] [Al-Hayik] The Jordanian foreign minister said that one of the issues King Husayn's meeting with President Bush dealt with was the peace talks and future ideas concerning these talks. Asked about the possibility of holding another round of talks before the Israeli elections, he said:

[Abu-Jabir] This issue has been discussed but no measures have been adopted yet. Neither the Arab side nor the other side has been able to name the topics that must be (?discussed) during the next round of talks. We are still discussing the where and when.

[Al-Hayik] Abu-Jabir said that Jordan has not yet submitted a list of the proposed venues for the next round of talks. He said Jordan needs time to hold discussions with other Arab sides before presenting the list.

Answering a question on Jordan's stand on the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after the Husayn-Bush meeting, Abu-Jabir said:

[Abu-Jabir] Actually, Jordan, as any other country, [word indistinct] Iraq itself agreed to implement the UN Security Council resolutions. But we still stress that food and medication must reach the Iraqi people. [end recording]

Sources: Next Round of Talks Planned for April

JN1403083192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Washington—AL-RA'Y has learned from informed sources that the fifth round of bilateral negotiations will be held during the last 10 days of April, most likely in the U.S. capital, Washington.

The sources said that the four Arab delegations—Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, and Jordanian—still insist on holding the negotiations in Washington, given that no noteworthy progress has yet been realized in the talks, and the fact that any alternative venue will never be an area close to the Middle East.

The sources stressed that the U.S. Administration is still waiting for a list of 10 proposals with regard to the venue to replace Washington for future bilateral negotiations. Israel submitted its list at the beginning of the recent fourth round of talks.

Editorial on U.S. 'Understanding' of Position

JN1403131492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Mar 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Jordanian-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] We were not too worried when Jordanian-U.S. relations entered a tunnel during the first stages of the Gulf crisis. We were aware that the time would come when the Americans and the others would understand our true position and would show their understanding of it.

During this crisis we were eager to emphasize a basic issue and a firm and principled position; namely, that we support international legitimacy, its principles, and all of its resolutions. Therefore, we have committed ourselves to everything that has been demanded from us since the first Security Council resolution was adopted. In this regard, we have been the model of a country that does not deviate from international consensus or circumvent it.

Yesterday's meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bush, in which they exchanged and emphasized feelings of friendship and respect, is proof of what we have asserted. It shows that the Americans have been the ones to most understand our position and, even more, the ones who have acted most fairly toward this position. They have not asked of us or imposed upon us anything that would lead to the loss of our credibility, of which we are proud and which won our country and our leadership the respect and appreciation of the international community. We also showed an understanding of what appeared to be a cause of uneasiness in our bilateral relations. Despite what seemed to be deep differences between Amman and Washington, yesterday's meeting and what the U.S. State Department said a few days ago emphasize that the Jordan which has always been eager to reach a political solution to the Gulf crisis is the same Jordan which has not for one minute ceased calling for a

political solution to the Middle East crisis. Furthermore, it has participated in all efforts toward such a solution.

The maturity of Jordan and its political leadership, the distinguished positions adopted by this leadership—positions recognized by friends and enemies alike—and our eagerness to ensure that our country maintains its bright picture, characterized by democracy, respect for human rights, and an effective contribution to the stability of the region and to resolving its problems on the basis of comprehensive justice, have enabled us in the past and will always enable us in the future to find common ground with others—whether these have done us injustice, have misunderstood us, and continue to do so; or are aware of Jordan's important position in the region's march toward peace and stability. We are eager to continue dialogue with these people because there are more points of agreement than differences and points of disagreement. Jordan has dealt with the constants; it has always succeeded in presenting a real and distinguished picture of itself, of which it is proud, to the international community and all its forces. In the end, Jordan will find the understanding it seeks and the assistance it deserves, as shown by His Majesty King Husayn's current tour.

U.S. Ship Detains Vessel Carrying Wheat, Flour

JN1503102692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Mar 92 pp 28, 22

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Since Thursday, 5 March 1992, U.S. Navy warship No. 52 has been detaining the Maltese vessel Mega Star, which is carrying 5,020 tonnes of flour from the World Food Program to fraternal Iraq.

The ship's total cargo consists of 14,000 tonnes of wheat and flour from the World Food Program in Rome to Iraq, Yemen, and Kenya.

Despite repeated contacts with the U.S. Embassy to release the ship, the vessel has been waiting in the Tiran Straits for almost a week without receiving permission to continue its journey.

Government To Join UN Forces in SFRY

JN1203132392 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Mahmud al-Sharif, minister of information and acting foreign minister, said today the Jordanian Government has decided to participate in UN peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia.

The minister said Jordan's decision came in response to an invitation to the Jordanian Government from the UN secretary general, and in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 743 concerning the dispatch of UN forces for peacekeeping in Yugoslavia.

JEA Supplying Syria With Power Following Storms

JN1203082992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Mar 92 p 3

[By Elia Nasrallah]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan is supplying parts of Syria with electric power that will mainly benefit the southern regions of Syria which were badly affected by recent snowstorms, causing adverse consequences on the local power generating units.

The announcement was made by Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Muhammad Sa'id 'Arafah who said the supplies are already reaching the Syrian side at al-Suwayda', Dar'a, and al-Qunaytirah at the rate of 1.25 million kilowatts an hour per day.

In the early 1980s, Syria resorted to Jordan's JEA for power supplies during a shortage in power generation.

According to Mr. 'Arafah, the fresh supplies will make up for the shortages caused when the snowstorms hit the thermal power generating units at Baniyas in northwestern Syria, causing failure to supply all the networks with normal feeds.

Under a 1976 understanding, Jordan agreed to supply southern Syrian regions with electric power in times of need. The agreement was reached between the electricity authorities of the two countries and signed in Damascus. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Visits France, Meets Mitterrand

WA1603130992

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to France, including reports on his talks with President Francois Mitterrand, please see the France section of the 16 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Hizballah Leader Comments on Policy, Principles

PM1603115192 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
12 Mar 92 p 2

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by Walid Shuqayr, Muhammad Shuqayr, and Ghalib al-Ashmar in Beirut "yesterday"]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] You assumed responsibility in critical circumstances after the assassination of 'Abbas al-Musawi. Does that not necessitate a revision of past experiences and the problems encountered in the party's moves?

[Nasrallah] By virtue of the nature of my work in Hizballah I have kept pace with the experiences through which we have passed since the beginning of its establishment. And since the Hizballah leadership is a collective leadership, there is constant eagerness to hold meetings from time to time to assess every stage and our experiences in it, to discover the shortcomings, if any, and eliminate them, and to reinforce the points of strength—which is natural.

[AL-HAYAH] In past years there has been an inter-Shiite conflict. Do you not believe that Hizballah, like the other parties, bears responsibility for the existence of shortcomings that led to a conflict which could have been averted?

[Nasrallah] The results of the assessment of that subject remain internal. And talking about that old experience, especially through the media after we have turned that page, is neither useful nor consistent with the general spirit through which we are making our moves on the scene.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you not believe that public opinion, especially the party's supporters, should be informed of some of the results of your assessment of what happened?

[Nasrallah] The nature of our jihad movement and the big challenges facing us, especialy in the face of a principal and fierce enemy, suggest that the issues concerning our grass roots and supporters be raised through our internal means. As for putting these matters to public opinion at this stage, in which we are experiencing the highest levels of jihad, confrontation, and risk, we do not believe it is useful. If you want to assess the positive aspects, there is no problem. But one should not expose one's shortcomings to others but, rather, should work to tackle them through his own means.

[AL-HAYAH] It is said that you are a hard-liner compared with your predecessor 'Abbas al-Musawi, who pursued a policy of openness at a number of levels, especially with regard to the policy of Lebanonizing the party. What is your comment?

[Nasrallah] As yet the outside world still does not understand the real inclination in Hizballah. And many observers still judge Hizballah the way they judge the other parties and political forces.

Hizballah proceeds from fixed principles unanimously agreed by the brothers. There is a unanimous political view as well as a unanimous inclination to maintain resistance action. The party is centered on fixed intellectual and political beliefs and foundations. Thus it is far removed from the phrase hard-liner or moderate. The secretary general in Hizballah is responsible for implementing the policy decided by the collective leadership. And certainly when the collective leadership of any political, jihad, or popular movement decides its steps and political moves, it proceeds from the political circumstances and factors from which his eminence the martyr proceeded. And these circumstances and factors do not reflect a personal view or a personal mentality. They were Hizballah's decision. The secretary general—be it me or any other brother—is concerned with its implementation. As for the previous period during which the martyr pursued the policy of openness, I was not present on the scene. I was concerned with jobs at the educational, mobilization, and internal action level. And anyone who is thus preoccipied is not concerned with political ambition, political rhetoric, press interviews, and political ties. That aspect has both its own apparatus and the group concerned with its management. You notice that many of Hizballah's cadres have no political ambitions. They are busy with internal affairs. Some time in the future a personality from among the brothers might emerge as a principal leader despite his being unknown on the scene because he makes his moves within the internal framework.

Al-Musawi's martyrdom and the quick election of Hizballah's new secretary general required that I enter the scene directly. Some people believed that that was the result of a personal inclination. I was away from many meetings, visits, relationships. But it was the result of the nature of the circumstances and the situation, not the result of a personal view.

[AL-HAYAH] Does that mean that your election as secretary general eliminates your description as a hard-liner.

[Nasrallah] Anyone who believes he is concerned with assessment must observe our movement in a general way. He will find that the secretary general is concerned with following the same line, orientation, and road followed by the martyred secretary general. And this is because it is not a personal line or orientation; it is Hizballah's line and orientation.

[AL-HAYAH] Even when comparing 'Abbas al-Musawi and his predecessors Ibrahim al-Amin and Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli we find that his term was distinctive?

[Nasrallah] While we do not deny that every person has his own characteristics and working method—and even if we assume that all persons concerned are implementing a certain inclination—certainly everyone tends

to reflect his personality and characteristics in his performance. He also imparts a special color to his moves. The circumstances and factors experienced by his eminence the martyr (al-Musawi) as a secretary general were very ripe for an opening up.

[AL-HAYAH] Many leaders and officials said that you were realistic and responsive toward the supreme defense council's decision to stop the katyushas, rockets, and other measures. What is the reason for and background to that conformity?

[Nasrallah] We have our own view in the resistance action, and our performance in the south both at present and in the past proceeds from that view. It does not proceed from pressures or wishes. We consider ourselves to be largely concerned with resistance action. We also consider it to be the responsibility of all people, not just us. And while we regard the resistance as our basic and main concern, we are very eager to maintain that resistance. Thus, and right from the outset, we have held the following view: There is an occupying enemy on our territory. We are concerned with fighting him. And it is obvious to us that negotiations, political pressures, and contacts are futile. And complaining to the Security Council merely registers a stance but does not eliminate occupation. It has not eliminated occupation in the past. What is required is to put pressure on that enemy and to exhaust it. (Former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem) Begin died two days ago. Some newspapers wrote in their headlines that he was the last victim of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Why was he a victim of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon? Because the Israeli enemy paid a high price in that invasion. And who caused him to pay it—the politicians or the fighters, international pressures, U.S. pressures, or Western pressures? No, he paid the price as a result of fighting at crossroads, as a result of martyrdom operations, ambushes, explosive charges, hand grenades, incendiary bombs, and boiling oil.

We are convinced that we cannot remove the occupying army from a part of our territory through the traditional method, because we are not a regular army fighting in the traditional way but, rather, one that fights through continued pressure to exhaust the enemy until he consequently realizes that his presence on this land is very very costly and finds no option but to withdraw, as happened in 1985. And had it not been for the resistance, the Israeli enemy would have stayed in all the areas he occupied.

On the basis of that view, we say that there are two cases: First, the enemy is present in the occupied area, carrying out no attacks on the liberated areas. In such a case we are concerned with carrying out operations against his concentrations in his barracks, positions, patrols, and checkpoints inside the occupied area. Our performance in the past period, especially recently, has been conducted in all possible forms: martyrdom operations, ambushes, or attacks on barracks or positions. That is our performance in this case. We do not believe in something called rocket bombardment, in the sense that an Islamic resistance group carries out rocket bombardment operations. Such a method is futile. We specifically do not need that method.

If any of us wants to fight Israel, and he has no men and mujahidin who can enter the occupied areas and move among the valleys and hills to set up the ambushes and carry out the martyrdom operations, he might probably resort to such a method. As for us, we do not need such a method, nor do we espouse it or believe it beneficial. This has long been our conviction. Recently, some people have said that Hizballah fired rockets. These are merely baseless rumors and lies.

As for the second case, there is a liberated area and an enemy attacking it with his tanks, planes, rockets, and artillery, bombarding and invading it. In such a case everyone—the resistance, influential forces, people, army, and state—are concerned with defense.

With regard to the defense process, we ask: On what basis and under what law, ethics, values, humanity, religion, and politics is a person defending his territory, homeland, wife, and son against an Israeli attack employing the latest available U.S. technology told that he is entitled to defend with a machine gun, hand grenade, and P-7 only; that he cannot use any other weapon? That is illogical when they attack our villages, towns, kinfolk, and people and want to enter and invade them. It is very natural for anyone to use all the resources available to him; it is his natural right. And we believe that within the framework of defending our villages, towns, and kinfolk we and all fighters have the natural right to use all possible means available to us. This is our view, and we approach the resistance issue on the basis of this view.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you not believe that what happened in the south recently requires a change in the resistance's modus operandi so as to reduce civilian losses resulting from retaliation?

[Nasrallah] Actually the losses are not caused by resistance operations but by the continuing Israeli aggression in the south. We all know that the Israeli enemy has historic ambitions in respect of the south's territory and waters. It is in the enemy's interest to put pressure on the people in order to get them out. There is now a policy being practiced intentionally or unintentionally. It always says that the enemy's moves, bombardment, and aggression are a response to the resistance's action. That is untrue. I want to ask here: Who is occupying the other's territory? Who is occupying the others' homes, confiscating their waters, and threatening their security? It is the enemy, not the resistance.

[AL-HAYAH] Will you apply in the south the rule: No occupation, no resistance—or is it linked to the region?

[Nasrallah] In such a case we are addressing strategic questions. We are talking about a principle. There is an occupation and there is a resistance. We believe that the occupation of the south and the occupation of Palestine

are both an occupation. It remains that we define responsibilities in a clearer way: the responsibility for liberating the south and the responsibility for liberating Palestine. The difference is the definition of these responsibilities, not whether to call it an occupation or not, because all that is an occupation. At any rate, when I spoke about resistance action I noted primarily the need to maintain that resistance action which protects people to a large extent. If we did not take account of people's interests, what would prevent us from setting up guns and resorting to bombardment, calling it a war with the enemy? I said we do not espouse such a method, not because it does not inflict losses on the enemy but because it is not in line with the efforts to keep the people in the confrontation areas.

If we want to search for a method for the resistance through which we could expect no attacks and bombardment against the people, our conviction is that Israel is continuing its plan, whether there is a resistance or not. In addition to that, we cannot find a resistance method—a method that kills and wounds the enemy—without paying a price. It is an open battle between you and him. What is more accurate and well aimed than the present method? We believe that the question is not that of the bombardment of the liberated area; the question is that, had it not been for the resistance's presence, all this region would really become threatened by the occupation.

[AL-HAYAH] You have taken a stand against the negotiations and you have attacked the delegation to the peace negotiations. On the other hand, the state has supported the resistance and its delegation in Washington has even defended it and defended Hizballah in particular against the Israeli demands for a strike on its bases. Does that not call for a different attitude by you, at least toward the Lebanese delegation?

[Nasrallah] The position on the negotiations is a firm principled political position stemming from the clear conviction that these negotiations will never produce any results. You may recall that one of the Arab chief delegates who participated in the previous round said that the only party to benefit from these negotiations so far was the Israeli enemy.

Israel wanted to bring us to the negotiating table, and it has indeed done so and it has given us nothing. That situation will not change regardless of whether there has been a positive attitude toward us or not, because this is not a question of Hizballah but a question of Lebanon's future and the future of the entire region and of all our people. That is why we have taken that consistent stance on the negotiations and the negotiation process.

On the second point, when the state, political forces or figures, or influential figures support the resistance, we appreciate that—which, incidentally, we consider to be a duty because fighting Israel is not only the duty of Hizballah but also the duty of the state, the political forces, the Lebanese people, and all the peoples of the region. Our view is that these circles do their duty when they reaffirm the resistance's right or defend the resistance. Whoever does that is appreciated in the context of doing one's duty.

[AL-HAYAH] There are many urgent issues under debate related to the Lebanese situation. Although you have rejected and opposed, you have still carried out or participated in the implementation of certain measures such as absorption and the security plan. Now there is some concentration on elections and administrative divisions. What is your view?

[Nasrallah] While expressing our political opposition to al-Ta'if, we have, as in the past, responded to any security plan aimed at stopping internal wars and civil wars in Lebanon. We believe that a civil war, or an internal war, cannot lead to any result. We imagine that all the Lebanese people now have the same conviction. Nobody can impose his ideas and views on the public by force of arms.

Regarding the achievement of a high degree of internal peace and security, we, along with others, have responded to that. There is no problem there. There is no contradiction between that and our political opposition to al-Ta'if because opposing the al-Ta'if agreement does not mean wanting civil war. It is not a question of two options. It is possible for someone to be against civil war and to respond to civil peace and at the same time be politically unsupportive of that agreement on which we have certain reservations.

On the question of elections and administrative divisions, we have actually been studying that issue for some time, but with the martyrdom of the martyr ('Abbas al-Musawi) we have been busy with the funeral, preparations, and so on. In other words there has been some delay, otherwise the principle of elections in the near future would have been raised. We are in favor of that because the time has come for the Lebanese people to elect deputies other than those who have been there for 17 years. The circumstances have changed and the present generations are different. The situation is difficult and sensitive.

[AL-HAYAH] Have you not voted yet, even once?

[Nasrallah] No, I have not voted yet. We support early elections. As to whether or not we would participate in such elections to have our own representatives, that question is actually under study, and as soon as we arrive at a final decision on this matter we will announce it.

[AL-HAYAH] The al-Ta'if agreement speaks of elections on a constituency-province basis. Do you in principle favor the mixed constituency-province approach or the single-constituency approach?

[Nasrallah] I prefer not to talk about that matter now because it requires ample study. The issue of the administrative divisions and the elections was actually under study from all legal, political, and other aspects when the

martyrdom occurred. We prefer to wait until our brothers have completed their studies before giving our opinion on the elections and administrative divisions.

[AL-HAYAH] Why have the efforts for the release of the prisoners and detainees held in Israeli prisons faltered? Is there anything new on the issue?

[Nasrallah] The part that concerns us, on which we have some information and which we have been following, is actually that of the Israeli prisoners in the hands of the Islamic resistance. As regards the hostages file, that does not concern us and we do not know what is happening in that respect. Regarding the first part, there have been some deals which resulted in some progress and there have been some obstacles, but in the interest of that issue we prefer not to talk about that now. As to whether there is anything new in this connection, we say that so far there is nothing.

[AL-HAYAH] What can Hizballah do about the case of the two kidnapped Germans, bearing in mind that Germany has openly linked aid for Lebanon to their release and bearing in mind the reports claiming that Hizballah's former secretary general made some efforts in this connection before his assassination?

[Nasrallah] My information is that martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi, the secretary general, did not intervene in that matter. Hizballah cannot intervene. It has been announced and it is clear that a certain party is holding the two Germans for reasons which have also been announced and made clear. We cannot influence that party and we cannot interfere in this matter as some may imagine.

On the question of the aid, I believe that in the past it was said that U.S. aid was linked to the release of the hostages. The hostages are out but the aid has not come. The French, British, and American hostages have left, but Lebanon has not seen any of it. It is very likely that the talk of German aid is in the same vein and framework.

[AL-HAYAH] It is true that the issue of the Germans does not concern you, but it has been said that there is nothing to prevent you making some effort. It has been said in Tehran, and some people have been quoted as saying that you were making efforts.

[Nasrallah] I read in the press that Iranian officials raised this matter with me, but that is not true because we are not at all concerned with that file. Anyone can ask Hizballah or others to intervene in connection with an important matter, but I believe that you, like us, do read [what is published] and so do the Germans and the whole world. The party which kidnapped them has some demands. Meet these demands and the entire problem will be solved. In other words, what can I or you do? We cannot do anything. Neither Hizballah nor anyone else can interfere in this matter, apart from the humanitarian aspect of it.

[AL-HAYAH] You said in Tehran that relations with Syria and Lebanon depended on their positions on the negotiations. Does that mean that there will be no alliance or cooperation with Syria like the cooperation with Tehran that you spoke about?

[Nasrallah] I thank you very much for that question because there was some confusion about the news conference I held in Tehran as reported by some news agencies. The reason was that I spoke in Arabic. There was a Persian language interpreter but there was no official interpreter for foreign languages. Two misunderstandings come to mind. The first was carried by agencies and reported by the Lebanese media. I was quoted as saying that the Lebanese Army did not disarm Hizballah. The truth is that there was no mention of Hizballah's arms. There was a question about the arms of the resistance and I said that disarming the resistance was not under consideration in Lebanon at state level or any other level and that as long as there was occupation there would be arms to resist. That was the answer. In the translation the resistance became Hizballah. On the question of relations with Syria and Lebanon, I did not say that at all and these reports are not true. I was asked about our relations with Syria. I said that they were normal and that we did not have any problems with Syria. It has always declared and continues to declare its support for the Lebanese people's right to defend their land, their kinfolk, and their resources. Syria adheres to that in all circles.

[AL-HAYAH] The fact that you went directly to Tehran without visiting Damascus has been given some political significance. What is your opinion?

[Nasrallah] I visited Tehran first to thank the Iranian leadership for the unusual attention given, because less than 12 hours after the martyrdom of 'Abbas al-Musawi a high-ranking Iranian delegation was here in Beirut. That attention deserves our gratitude. The other point is that this is a religious tradition which has nothing to do with politics. It is known that we are a jihadist Islamic movement. We have a legitimate leadership, that of Ayatollah Khamene'i as a scholar and a legist. As regards a visit to Damascus, we will seek a meeting with the Syrian brothers at the earliest possible time.

[AL-HAYAH] In a report on the arms freighter which is said to have arrived at an Iranian port, THE WASHINGTON TIMES said that, in return for using that freighter to Syria's advantage, Iran asked Damascus to allow a military aircraft carrying arms intended for you to land, and that such an aircraft did in fact land in the Syrian capital last week and the cargo was handed over to the party. In other words it was unloaded for the [Iranian] Revolutionary Guard, which gave it to the party.

[Nasrallah] So far we have received nothing. We will wait. Let us hope to God that the report is true. It does not sadden us to receive arms. I have no accurate information on this matter.

[AL-HAYAH] It is a question of whether the arms have reached you or not?

[Nasrallah] I have no information on the matter. Did an aircraft land at Damascus airport or not? Was there some barter or a deal? I have no information.

[AL-HAYAH] You have sent an official to the Vatican embassy to convey condolences for the death of the father of Papal Nuncio Pablo Puento. That was the first time this tradition has been observed since 1983. Is it just a matter of condolences or a gesture of openness?

[Nasrallah] It was not just condolences. It was also part of the openness we have embarked upon.

[AL-HAYAH] It has been reported that there were other meetings before. Were the contacts in the nature of an Islamic-Christian dialogue.

[Nasrallah] There have been contacts, but they did not reach the level of dialogue.

[AL-HAYAH] Were they with Christian parties?

[Nasrallah] Yes, some meetings were held with some Christian parties. One cannot be open to the world all in one go. Naturally, openness comes gradually.

[AL-HAYAH] What would you say are the priorities in the political openness process?

[Nasrallah] The openness should naturally start with the patriotic Islamic forces that we live with in the same house, street, and field. Then it extends to other forces and to figures and influential elements in other states. That, God willing, should be the natural progression. I do not build relations with the Vatican when there are no relations between me and the Islamic and patriotic forces that live with me under the same roof.

[AL-HAYAH] A report published by AL-HAYAH today (yesterday) said that the U.S. state department and secretary of state asked U.S. Ambassador to Beirut Ryan Crocker not to return to his post and that the request was a precautionary measure because of fear of retaliation for 'Abbas al-Musawi's assassination. Do you have any comment on that report?

[Nasrallah] They are free to take precautions. On the question of 'Abbas al-Musawi's martyrdom, we have declared and we still believe that the best answer to that bestial operation is escalation of the resistance. We believe in that and will do it. If the Americans want to take precautions, they are free to do so. If they believe they were partners in that operation then it would be very natural for them to take such precautions.

[AL-HAYAH] There is also some fear among Western diplomats regarding this matter. What is your view?

[Nasrallah] I can speak for Hizballah. We did not resort to kidnapping in the past and we will not do so now or in the future. We believe that our answer will be an escalation of the resistance operations. The coming days will, God willing, testify to that.

If I am being asked to give assurances, well, I am not responsible for security so as to give such assurances. We do not kidnap diplomats or anyone else. In Lebanon, two or three people can take a car and do what they like. So, what we can say is that the answer we, Hizballah—whose secretary general was martyred—will give will be an escalation of the resistance.

Addresses Hizballah-Ja'far Banquet

NC1503095192 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Excerpts] During a banquet breaking the fast yesterday evening—hosted in his honor by al-Hajj Muhammad 'Ali 'Awadah—His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, said that closing the ranks of all parties is one of the most important factors for our people during this fateful stage. The banquet was attended by Hizballah leaders; Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador to Syria; Brigadier General Mohammad 'Askari, Revolution Guard commander; the Ja'far clan; and a large number of ministers, deputies, figures, and ulema. Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence, and Major General 'Isa al-Shidyaq, commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, also attended the meal.

In his speech, Nasrallah stressed that the hard past must be forgotten in order to stand united in the face of anyone trying to attack our sanctities.

[Begin Nasrallah recording] We are all concerned about living in this threatened area. This is an area of war and resistance, as his eminence Imam Musa al-Sadr, may god return him safely, used to say. Resistance needs its kinfolk, people, and men. It needs good hearts, enlightened minds, strong arms, honest men, and blessed efforts. I must stress here the greatness of what has been achieved recently and what we consummated today [the reconciliation between Hizballah and the Ja'far clan], under the patronage of the man who initiated it and made the efforts to fulfill this wish.

As we said the day the reconciliation was concluded, we miss our martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi, master of the Islamic Resistance martyrs. This reconciliation was one of his wishes and goals. He worked tirelessly to bring it about, and hoped to smile with all those who helped with hearts full of joy. We are certain that although he is in the other world—a world of security, peace, justice, and love—he is with us and sharing our joy, love, and feelings of fraternity. He knows that his blood has been [words indistinct] strongly. [end recording]

Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Akhtari made a statement stressing the need to unify ranks and avoid inter-Islamic differences, because the difficult conditions through which the Muslim people in Lebanon are living make this invaluable.

[Begin Akhtari recording] I thank my brothers from the Ja'far clan and Hizballah, who asked me to speak on their behalf. I thank them for their love and brotherhood. May God reward you, guide your efforts, and help you unify your ranks. Be one hand against your enemy, the usurper Israel. I must remember our dear departed brother struggler, his eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi, our martyr, who could not rest and exerted great efforts to bring about this reconciliation, which was one of his dearest wishes. We hope God will guide us to continue on his path, to be soldiers of Islam, and unite against our enemies. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ba'labakk Mufti Shaykh Khalil Shuqayr said: I believe that this meeting caps a blessed reconciliation under Syrian and Iranian auspices.

Bishop of Dayr al-Ahmar Phillip Shubay'ah made a statement in which he stressed all Lebanese sects need to adhere to amicability, love, and peace.

Telephone Conversation With Birri

NC1403211992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, held a telephone conversation with Minister Nabih Birri and discussed the latest developments in the south. He raised the issue of the Zionist enemy's use of civilian women and children in the occupied strip as human shields. He stressed the need for taking action regarding this issue, which reflects the inhuman bestiality of the Zionist entity.

In this regard, Hizballah has issued a statement in which it condemns the latest oppressive measures by the Zionist occupation forces and their agents. The statement points out that this racist and bestial enemy has lately been forcing women, children, and innocent civilians to march before their mechanized and foot patrols in the south, thus using them as human shields to protect the occupation. The statement adds: It is as though the enemy has not been satisfied with hiding behind the Lahdist agents they have using as sandbags for so long, to limit direct losses as much as possible.

The Hizballah statement continues: The Zionist entity, which does not refrain from committing the ugliest crimes against humanity, and finds no impediment to deter it from killing and deriding people, trampling over all values, and violating international norms and laws to accustom the international community to its ugly, cancerous occupation, affirms to us through these aggressive practices that it is not a contemporary political entity and does not deserve to be grouped among such entities. In fact, it is a bestial and racist entity based on aggression. It has no right to continue to exist, since it is an insult to humanity and a violation of its dignity.

While the statement expresses surprise over the silence of the so-called civilized states and the inhuman international organizations and bodies over the practices of this usurping entity against hundreds of civilians in southern Lebanon, it calls on international public opinion and the community to take a firm and serious stand regarding this abnormal racist entity that cannot hide its ugly face or cover up its heinous crimes against humanity and civilization.

Concluding, the Hizballah statement affirms that the expressions of condemnation and protest have become expressions the enemy is now used to hearing. Therefore, the world is called on today to carry out an operation that prevents aggression and deters occupation. This would demonstrate the least sense of responsibility. Such an operation does not detract from the responsibility of the Lebanese Government to take serious and large-scale action in this regard.

Buwayz on Purpose of Foreign Ministers Meeting

NC1703073092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Only Egypt has yet to be heard from before the meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab border states [those states bordering Israel] convenes in Lebanon in response to an invitation by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Jordan, Syria, and the PLO have already agreed to participate in the meeting. Buwayz will hold contacts to set a final date for the meeting. This afternoon, Buwayz emphasized that this meeting is to benefit, not hamper, the peace conference. Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] As we stand on the threshold of a turning point in the peace conference, we have addressed an invitation to the parties concerned with the bilateral talks to meet to exchange views, assess what has taken place so far, and attempt to examine the future phase. Naturally, the Jordanian side responded by informing our ambassador in Amman that the Jordanian foreign minister will attend the meeting. His excellency the Syrian foreign minister and the Palestinian foreign minister also responded.

We still must set an exact date for this meeting, the purpose of which, as I already have said, is to make a comprehensive assessment of the previous phase, explore the future of the conference and the negotiations, and to unite our ranks on the new developments.

We must say that we feel that Arab solidarity, which started out weak, is now gaining force daily, and the states concerned are becoming more convinced of the need to constantly hold consultations and unite their ranks.

I would like to emphasize that this meeting and whatever coordination we can achieve will be in the interest of the conference more than against it. They support the unification of views and efforts to bring about a just, comprehensive, and straightforward conference, as it should be.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us the nature of your meeting with the Egyptian ambassador?

[Buwayz] His excellency the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt visited me today, bringing with him a message from his excellency the Egyptian foreign minister on the subject of the discussions and the conference. We exchanged views and I explained Lebanon's stand on the conference in general to his excellency the ambassador. We also assessed the previous rounds of talks and defined some of the features of possible future rounds. [end recording]

Minister Buwayz said that he will contact the states which will participate in the meeting this afternoon in order to set a final date. He said the Egyptian ambassador handed him a message from his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa, dealing with the talks and the conference. He said Egypt's view on the conference is to urge all the parties to participate in all rounds of talks.

The Egyptian ambassador, who visited the prime minister today, denied that there is a problem in Lebanese-Egyptian relations. He said that relations are too strong to be affected by peripheral and simple problems.

Views Consequences of Failure in Talks

NC1303074492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has warned that failure of the Middle East peace conference would make the region's future quite unpredictable, including the likelihood of destructive new regional wars.

The foreign minister said that the conference will only succeed if Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 are implemented and a comprehensive, genuine peace is established. Buwayz said that Lebanon would benefit most from a real peace, because peace would force the disappearance of several domestic ideological trends and several theories which have hurt the state.

In a statement, Buwayz said that although the Lebanese have a number of options open to them on various issues, they are united on peace. He said that the atmosphere of freedom and democracy, which enables Lebanon to deal with other states, will remain a guide for our political life. We must realize that Lebanon is no longer in the age of oppression and darkness, he said, and will not relapse into the turmoil of the past. All Lebanese must close ranks in the battle to regain our land, freedom, and prestige.

Bomb Detonated Near Israeli Army Headquarters

NC1303181292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Lebanese police announced today that an Israeli patrol advanced 2 km outside the security zone in the south yesterday, toward the Kawkaba hill, where it dismantled an anti-tank mine. The same source added that South Lebanese Army [SLA] explosive experts detonated a 20-kg explosive device near the main headquarters of the Israeli Army within the security zone.

Israeli and SLA troops have discovered three explosive devices in 48 hours. The Islamic Resistance has claimed responsiblity for carrying out three operations, one of which yesterday left an SLA member dead and five others wounded.

Hizballah Pledges 'Indefatigable' Fight

LD1403135492 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Beirut, March 14, IRNA—The Hizballah in Lebanon today vowed to carry on its "indefatigable" fight against the usurper Zionists and rejected any compromise with the Israeli enemy. This was announced in a statement issued by Hizballah today on the occasion of the anniversary of the attempt on the life of 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah at Bi'r-al-'Abd, Beirut in 1985.

However, the explosion masterminded by the notorious American spying network, CIA, left over 280 civilians, mostly women and children martyred. "How could the Muslim ummah accept the peace and security claimed by those whose hands are stained with the blood of innocent people?" argued the Hizballah statement. It laid the responsibility for the current unrest and chaotic situation in the region on Washington's unsparing support for the Zionist enemy. Condemning any negotiation with the Zionists, the statement reiterated the commitment of the Muslim ummah to liberate all occupied lands.

Denies Killing Israeli Diplomat

NC1203123192 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Beirut, March 12 (AFP) - The pro-Iranian Hizballah movement on Thursday denied it was involved in last week's assassination of an Israeli diplomat in Ankara. "Our confrontation with Israel is limited to south Lebanon... and the occupied territories," Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, a senior Hizballah operative, said in press statements.

"What takes places outside (these areas) is not our responsibility. There are many free men in the Muslim world who have a deep hatred for the Zionist enemy (Israel)," he added.

The Israeli diplomat in Ankara, Ehud Sadan, was killed in a car bombing March 9. The attack was initially claimed by the Organisation of Islamic Vengeance in retaliation for the Israeli assassination February 16 of Hizballah chief Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi. Later anonymous callers said two other groups, Islamic Jihad and Hizballah, were behind the bombing.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Say Fall of Mazar-e-Sharif 'Imminent'

Rebels Advancing 'From All Sides'

BK1603170092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1659 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 16 (AFP)—Afghan mojahedin said Monday they were close to capturing Mazar-e-Sharif, capital of Afghanistan's northern province of Balkh.

"The city may fall to the mojahedin any time," spokesman Mohammad Yunas Qanuni of the Jamiat-e Eslami resistance faction told reporters here.

He said guerrillas under commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud had broken through a government forces' security belt reaching within three kilometers (1.8 miles) of the city's two military and civil airfields.

The mojahedin were advancing from all sides to encircle the city, the spokesman said, adding that the guerrillas had captured several posts and a large of weapons from "demoralized troops."[as received]

He claimed that dissident groups of militiamen in the area were not taking part in the battle, and that they were expected to join the mojahedin.

Two days ago, the mojahedin claimed to have captured Kholm District in neighbouring Samangan Province.

Further on Rebel Offensive

BK1703091992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 17 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas said Tuesday that they had government forces under pressure in at least two northern provinces and were now threatening the key city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Spokesmen for the Jamiat-e Eslami faction here said a campaign led by mojahedin commander Ahmed Shah Masood had since the weekeend seized the regions of Daulatabad, Faizabad, and Charkent, surrounding Mazar-i-Sharif in Balkh province.

The neighboring province of Samangan, which is also close to the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, was also reported to be the scene of fighting.

The takeover of Kholm district by the mojahedin was announced Saturday and a dozen villages fell to them Monday around Samangan city, said Jamiat military committee chief Mohammed Ayub.

Fighting and guerrilla advances were also reported in Baghlan province, amid indications of dissension between government forces and local allied militias. In Kabul, ruling party officials acknowledged the seriousness of the situation, but described it as an ethnic confrontation between Pashtoon and Tadzhik tribesmen. The government acknowledged indirectly Monday that its armed forces chief had been rushed to the area to try to patch up the quarrel.

Several planes have taken off from a base near Kabul in recent days to carry out raids in the north.

Renewed, intensive fighting in Afghanistan comes as the United Nations is attempting to organise an inter-Afghan peace assembly next month in Europe, with the goal of putting a transitional government in place in Kabul ahead of general elections.

Abdul Hamid Menhaj, director of the mojahedin news agency MIDIA in Pakistan, said Tuesday the guerrillas were "encircling" Mazir-e- Sharif after overrunning eight government positions.

He said three generals had fled the important northern city, but did not provide any names.

Jamiat military committee chief Ayub said "the mojahedin are advancing on Mazar-e-Sharif and its garrisons," adding that the operation was "coordinated" by Masood, a celebrated commander affiliated with the Jamiat.

In response to a question, Ayub denied that the mojahedin were operating in liaison with militia who have been in open conflict since January with the Kabul government, which is dominated by Pashtoons.

"The militiamen have no morale and are not fighting," he said.

Highly-placed sources in Kabul have confirmed the continuing tensions between Tadzhik and Uzbek militiamen, erstwhile allies of President Najibollah, and the army.

Defense Official on 'Resolute Solidarity'

LD1603200892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1730 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Greetings and good wishes from esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, were conveyed today by General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, first deputy defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, to scholars, religious leaders, guardians of the sacred Rawza [Shrine of 'Ali], elders and village leaders who had held a gathering in the holy shrine of Hazrat-e 'Ali.

General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, accompanied by Ministerial Adviser Sayyed Ekram Paygir, Governor of Balkh 'Abdol Bashir (?Paywastun), President of the Homeland Party Provincial Council Sayyed Taher Shah Paykargar, and some heads of state departments of the Balkh Province, went this morning to the shrine of Hazrat-e 'Ali and prayed for the soul of that Hazrat.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports from Mazar- e Sharif city that General

Mohammad Nabi Azimi, after pilgrimage to the Hazrat-e 'Ali, spoke with a great number of scholars, religious leaders, guardians of the shrine, and elders concerning the development of situations in favor of the establishment of peace in the country and about the state's actual measures in this regard. Describing the conspiracies and intrigues of the armed opposition, he reassured them that a resolute solidarity and unity of units and companies in the northern provinces of the country and, with the help of Almighty God and cooperation of the peace-loving people, national unity is being strengthened with the passage of every day toward defending our territorial integrity and the realization of the aspirations of the policy of national reconciliation.

In reply the head of Islamic Affairs and Endowment of Balkh Province, Senator Mir 'Abdol Nafi' spoke on behalf of the religious leaders and peaceloving people of Balkh Province and showed readiness to help in realizing the aspirations of peace. At the end an amount of money was given to the preacher of the communal mosque of Rawza, Mir Abdol Wahed which was accepted with thanks.

Further on Visit by UN Special Envoy Sevan

Received by Najibollah

LD1703101192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] The press department of the president's office told BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that Afghanistan's President Najibollah this afternoon received at the presidential palace His Excellency Benon Sevan, special envoy of the UN Secretary General. Benon Sevan spoke about [words indistinct] of the United Nations concerning Afghanistan, and his contacts and talks with the sides involved and with the Afghan leadership. He informed the president of Afghanistan about these contacts. The UN envoy explained the preparations being made by the United Nations [words indistinct] for organizing meetings among Afghans and the necessity of [words indistinct] being taken by Afghans themselves for the establishment of peace.

President Najibollah recalled with thanks the all-round efforts of Benon Sevan in his search for a peaceful solution and acceptable [word indistinct] for Afghanistan. He discussed the form and method of the gatherings of Afghans and the readiness of the Republic of Afghanistan in this regard. Esteemed Najibollah said that the Republic of Afghanistan is ready for all cooperation aimed at the realization of the UN peace plan and the gathering of Afghans for the establishment of peace in this country. Present conditions in the country and on an international level, as well as the will and demands of the people of Afghanistan, dictate that all forces of peace coordinate their activities for ending war and the stabilization of the situation. We not only support and affirm the UN plan for a meeting of Afghans for talks and dialogue among Afghans aimed at establishing peace in Afghanistan, but consider it a suitable framework for bringing Afghans to the negotiations table for making a decision about the future and destiny of the country. This will also ease the formation of a mechanism for the interim period.

Esteemed Najibollah listed Afghan candidates who will be taking part at the planned meeting of 150 Afghans due to be convened by the United Nations. On the list are representatives of the Homeland Party, other political forces, social organizations, non-party personalities, nationalities, tribes, commanders, religious leaders, and intellectuals. Mohammad Eshaq Tukhi, who is an aide to the president, was present at the meeting.

Met by Prime Minister Khaleqyar

LD1703102992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Haq Khaleqyar today received Benon Sevan, assistant secretary general of the United Nations and special envoy of the UN Secretary General. During the meeting they discussed recent developments of the situation and the results of Benon Sevan's visits to the region. They also discussed the circumstances of the cooperation to accelerate the process of understanding and negotiation among Afghans.

Benon Sevan briefed Khaleqyar on the continuation of UN efforts to find a political and peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, the advancement of negotiations with regional sides involved in the problem, the development of the situation and preparations to cooperate in inter-Afghan meetings, and the start of negotiations to ensure peace in Afghanistan. Benon Sevan remarked with optimism and interest that depite some problems, the UN efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan are proceeding. New impetus is seen in the continuing search for a sensible solution acceptable to Afghans for the end to war and fratricide.

Khaleqyar mentioned with gratitude the efforts of the United Nations and of the UN secretary general personally to achieve a political and peaceful solution to the Afghan problem. He expressed hope that recent developments in the situation and the existing start to cooperation for ensuring peace in Afghanistan will be accelerated and the desired and final results reached as soon as possible.

Expressing once again the full support of the Republic of Afghanistan for the UN secretary general's plan and the UN efforts for the implementation of the plan, Khaleqyar added: The government of the Republic of Afghanistan makes serious and positive efforts to accelerate the process of moving closer and finding understanding among Afghans to edn war and ensure peace. The prime minister emphasized a political and peaceful solution for Afghanistan which complies with the wishes of the suffering people of the country and the interests of the international and national reconciliation policy. He hopes that numerous Afghan problems are resolved with

the start of [words indistinct] and the peace process, especially in the economic field. The continuation of war increases misery and hardship in all aspects of life, especially in the economic and social areas, and adds to the sorrows of the people of Afghanistan.

India

Delhi Under 'Moral' Duress To Sign NPT

BK1603101492 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 92 p 13

[V.P. Dutt article: "India's Answer to NPT"]

[Text] India is being subjected to intense "moral" pressure to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty [NPT] and become a part of the have-nots in the nuclear regime established by the major nuclear powers particularly USA, Russia and Britain. The pressure for a nuclear-free zone in South Asia is a variant of the same theme. India has been pleading, with increasing frustration, with the European powers about the discriminatory nature of the NPT and the unreality of the proposal for South Asia. Now even the ground realities have shifted from what they were only a year ago. The primary question, therefore, has come to be: what is to be done now?

The foreign-aid bill sent by President George Bush to the Congress, by omitting Pakistan from the list of aided countries, was perhaps the final proof that the Americans had firm evidence, not just about the nuclear-weapon capability of Pakistan, but that it had crossed the Rubicon. Whether the nuclear bombs are on the shelf, or the materials await encasing, is hardly relevant. If you have the ingredients ready, encasing could take place as quickly as you want. If still there was any uncertainty left, the Pakistan Foreign Secretary's interview to the WASHINGTON POST has made it difficult even for the most vociferous lobbyist for Pakistan to deny that Pakistan did not possess any atomic weapon. No one can seriously accept the Pakistani diplomat's claim that they have the materials for only one bomb.

The first question that arises in the new situation is the meaning and relevance of the two countries signing the NPT or agreeing to declare South Asia as a nuclear weapon-free zone. Pakistan has already gone nuclear according to the US evidence and Islamabad's own admission, and therefore unless these ingredients and materials are destroyed, the entire exercise would be purposeless. The second question that needs to be immediately addressed to is the evolving of reasonable, feasible and sensible counter-proposals that would meet the nuclear threat that India faces from more than one quarter, quite apart from the steps it has to take to ensure its security.

Add to this the highly ambiguous situation prevailing in the Asian republics of the erstwhile USSR in regard to the nuclear weapons on their teritories. No one really knows for sure whether those weapons will return to the full control of Mr Boris Yeltsin or whether there will be a disturbing seepage. There are ominous reports in the Western Press about such seepage and the drift of nuclear scientists to more promising bidders. At present at least one of them, Kazakhstan has to be viewed as a nuclear-weapon state. Thus India is surrounded by nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon states, including China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and America.

Whatever policy India evolves has to contend with these realdities and must be in conformity with the fundamental interests of its peace and security. China has already made its standpoint plain. It has agreed to sign the NPT shortly, but most people in India, including many commentators who know or should know better, do not seem to realise or point out clearly that China would be signing the NPT as a nuclear power, whose obligations under the treaty are entirely different from those of non nuclear states adhering to it. As a nuclear-weapon state it can go on experimenting and refining its nuclear weapons. It cannot, however, transfer this technology to non nuclear states (although according to firm Western evidence, China has precisely done that secretly in the case of Pakistan), and whatever help it gives in the area of nuclear energy, has to be under the safeguards overseen by the International Atomic Energy Agency. In any case, China has categorically stated that it would take part in nuclear disarmament processes only when the arsenals of the big nuclear powers are reduced to its own level. On the face of it, it appears to be an untenable preposition but at least in the immediate future there does not seem to be much chance of the other nuclear powers obliging China to change its stance.

India could conceivably take the same position that it would consider joining the non-proliferation regime only when China becomes an official part of the nuclear disarmament process and when Pakistan's existing capability is dismantled. But the pressures on India are of a different nature from those exercised on China, because the other nuclear powers already recognise China as a nuclear-weapon state.

The route of the pressure on India will now lie through Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference for the establishment of South Asia as a nuclear-free zone, with three of the proposed participants, USA, Russia and China being recognised nuclear-weapons state and one, Pakistan, an unrecognised fledgling one. In the present international situation where the old Soviet Union stands dissolved and the balance of power shifted to USA and Europe, and given the acute domestic financial difficulties facing India, it will be a Herculean task to resist these pressures. The pressure of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia is tantamount to signing the NPT through the back-door.

India would certainly need to come up with some viable alternative proposals that would reach out to the heart of the problem of India's selcurity as well as respond to inceasing world opinion in the area of nuclear non-proliferation. Mr James Baker has already said that only

India, of the five nations involved, has opposed the proposal. In the absence of alternative proposals, India would be fighting increasingly diminishing accepance by the world community of its standpoint, however justified its call for a global solution to the problem of nuclear weapons, and not just a regional piecemeal approach might be. India's campaign to prevent the world from being policed by a few nuclear powers must be accompanied by some effective regional proposals of its own.

Taking all these factors and issues under consideration, I suggest that India may welcome a five-power conference provided the agenda would be to consider India's proposal that in addition to South Asia internally, a radius of some 1,000 miles around South Asia would be nuclear weapon-free. No nuclear weapons or ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads would be placed within this radius. I have selected this circumference because it would meet the threat of intermediate-range ballistic missiles to a large extent also. Such a proposal would take care not only of Pakistan's nuclear fears, and perhaps paranoia, but also India's legitimate security interests in regard to all the nuclear weapons around its territory. This would account for China's nuclear weapons in Tibet, prevent possible nuclear installations in the Aksai China region and contain the threat of the nuclear weapons in Central Asia as well as nuclear weapons if any of the United States in the Indian ocean region up to a certain area, without jeopardising basic US security interests.

Such a proposal is eminently reasonable as well as effective. If the big nuclear powers and China are sincere in their protestations about a nuclear-threat free world, and if they are sincere about the utility and effectiveness of nuclear-free regional zones, there is no reason why they should not accept such a proposal. A rejection of this proposal would squarely place the onus on the nuclear-weapon states and expose their insincerity and hypocrisy. Acceptance, on the other hand, should be entirely welcomed as an important step in the process towards nuclear disarmament.

The experience with Iraqi nuclear ambitions has demonstrated that the routine procedures adopted by the international Atomic Energy Agency in regard to safeguards against diversion of resources to the production of nuclear weapons are highly inadequate and, certainly, would not create a climate of trust with India in regard to the destruction of existing nuclear-weapon capability of Pakistan. Additionally, therefore, India must insist that the same kind of inspection would take place in Pakistan as it did in Iraq so that there is no scope for fraud and India's security, as well as that of Pakistan, from the nuclear threat can be ensured.

These proposals are being advanced with all seriousness and after due consideration and I hope they can become the subject of serious discussion, and if found acceptable, adoption by India on its foreign policy agenda. Meanwhile, India must take all necessaary measures to safeguard its security and not allow itself to be open to blackmail as Islamabad is attempting presently.

Authorities Have 'No Information' on DPRK Ship

BK1703034892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The Indian shipping authority say they have no information about the reported movement of the North Korean freighter allegedly carrying Scud missiles for Iraq. A spokesman of the Directorate of Shipping said in Bombay that they had no knowledge of any North Korean merchant vessel seeking access to Indian ports. A spokesman of the Indian Coast Guard has also denied noticing any suspicious movement of any merchant vessel warranting its boarding.

Iran

Navy on Alert Since Arrival of Korean Freighter

PM1303130492 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Mar 92 pp 11, 16

[Unattributed report: "80 Scud-C's for Iran and 30 for Syria"]

[Excerpts] Tehran, Washington, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Iranian military sources revealed yesterday that the Iranian Navy has been on maximum alert since the arrival of the North Korean freighter Dae Hung Ho in the Gulf of Oman on its way to Bandar-e 'Abbas. [passage omitted]

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that the Korean ship's cargo is being delivered as part of a major military deal concluded during Iranian Defense Minister Akbar Torkan's visit to Pyongyang last year. Under that deal, worth $2.5 billion, last month Iran received 80 advanced Scud-B missiles and 120 main combat type 69 tanks, produced in China but modified by North Korea and now probably better than Chinese tanks type 80, which China has not exported to any other country. The deal also includes modern missile systems, MRL 107-mm rocket launchers, and 110 advanced Scud-C missiles with a range of some 480 km.

An Iranian military source said that 80 of the missiles already delivered were for Iran and 30 for Syria.

According to Iranian sources, the first shipment of Korean missiles reached Iran on a commercial freighter last month. [passage omitted]

Editorial Emphasizes U.S. 'Not Above Law'

NC1403191992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Not Above the Law"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's announcement this week that Iran is seeking damages from the U.S. for

its willful destruction of Nasr oil platform could not be more timely. It comes at a time of the Americans staging its fourth series of military exercises in the Persian Gulf following its war with Iraq.

Iran's claim follows the completion of extensive repairs at the terminal, attacked without warning by six U.S. warships and several warplanes and helicopters on April 18, 1988. It took place along with an assault on the adjacent Salman oil platform, where the Americans displayed their venom by killing the wounded and firing on Iranian boats attempting to rescue them.

The unjustified atrocity is just one of many black pages in the history of the U.S. which assuming the title of 'superpower' has been the greatest instigator of state terrorism around the world. Added to its record is its sponsorship of criminal acts through the Zionist regime, deliberately implanted in the Middle East as an affront to Muslims in their land.

Yet attempts to call the Americans to order have been few and far between, with the notable exception of Nicaragua, which succeeded in its writ to the International Court of Justice in the Hague even though it has still to receive compensation for the U.S. aggression against its country. In the case of Nasr, which has been linked with Americans supporting the Iraqi regime's move on the Faw peninsula, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has expressed his confidence that this time Washington will be made to pay.

The wanton destruction of the oil terminal is only one of a series of U.S. attacks carried out against Iranian targets in the Persian Gulf to help Saddam Husayn, but is the first to be fully reconstructed. It was the same help, which President Bush said only last week, that he was "proud" to have provided. The most notorious 'help' is damages outstanding for the blatant shooting down of civil Iran Air Airbus on July 3, 1988 killing all 290 passengers and crew on board, let alone an apology.

After its current war games being carried out in the guise of joint maneuvers with Kuwait, Washington has stated that its 27 warships and its troops will stay in the Persian Gulf region. No details have been given on the nature of the mission, but the U.S. as the self-proclaimed leader of the world, more than any other country needs to be told that it is not above the law and can no longer go around behaving as a gangster.

Tehran Denies Encouraging Iraq To Stay in Kuwait

LD1603221592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry on Monday evening rejected recent claims by the Iraqi prime minister that during the Persian Gulf crisis the Islamic Republic of Iran encouraged Iraq to prolong the presence of her forces in Kuwait. He said: Our recommendations to the Iraqi authorities were completely the opposite of what the Iraqi prime minister has said. He added: Whenever we saw the Iraqi authorities we impressed upon them that the occupation of Kuwait and the continued presence of Iraqi forces in that country were against the interests of all the nations in the region and would only lead to increased presence and influence of foreign military forces in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf region.

He said: Subsequent developments proved the validity of Iran's views and the destructive effects of Iraq's action. He added: It seems that the Iraqi regime intends to ease the international pressure on Baghdad and put the onus of the Iraqi Government's responsibility for the present tragic situation in that country on others.

Officials Discuss Exchange of Prisoners With Iraq

Red Cross To View 5,000 Iraqi POW's

LD1203200592 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Iran will provide facilities to the representatives of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to meet 5,000 Iraqi prisoners of war who have taken asylum here. The measure is taken in line with a trilateral accord reached between Iran, Iraq, and Red Cross in Geneva recently. Chief of the commission for the Iraqi POW's Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran told IRNA today that Iran is determined to put an end to the POW's issue. He said Iraqi refugees (former POW's) across the country have been called to come to Tehran to meet ICRC representatives. Nazaran said the ICRC delegation will consider the status of these POW's and will register them as refugees on March 17. Meanwhile, Nazaran said, the issue of exchange of POW's will begin on March 14, and Iran has taken all necessary provisions in this respect. "Ending the ordeal of families of the two countries," he said, "is the objective of the Islamic Republic of Iran." He also hoped that Iraq too would act positively and justifiably. The official in charge of the POW's also noted that 40 Lebanese mercenaries fighting alongside Iraq in its war against Iran (1980-1988) will be delivered to Lebanon's Hezbollah soon to join their families.

POW-MIA Official Meets With Iraqis

LD1403113592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The director of the POW and MIA committee of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war held talks today with Iraqi officials in the Khosravi-Mandariyah border region on ways and means to exchange the remaining POW's of the two countries. As yet there are no accurate reports on the outcome of the negotiations between the officials of the two countries. It was previously announced that 100 remaining Iraqi POW's would be exchanged for the same number of Iranian freemen [POW's] at this stage.

Iraqi 'Obstructions' Block Exchange

LD1503111292 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Obstructions made by the Baghdad officials blocked the way for exchange of prisoners of war (POW's) at the Khosravi border point, western Iran, Saturday. Following the efforts started in Geneva last month to bring about the release of the remaining POW's, captured in the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war, the first batch of POW's were expected to be swapped yesterday.

The impediments made by Baghdad have severely disappointed the family members of the POW's who have reportedly travelled to Khosravi region to welcome their beloved ones. They are impatiently waiting for the green light from Iraq so that their ordeal will be ended.

An informed source at the Foreign Ministry reiterated here Sunday that the Islamic Republic is ready to hand over 100 Iraqi POW's adding that the batch had been transferred to Khosravi area Friday. The source declined to comment on reasons for the halt in the process but said the issue is being followed up.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that "technical problems" hindered the swapping of the POW's but expressed hope that the issue will be solved in the next few days. According to an agreement reached between Iran, Iraq and the ICRC in Geneva last month, it was agreed that both Iran and Iraq resume swapping POW's as of March 14. However, the diplomatic circles here believe that Iraq, as in previous occasions, has obstructed the process.

Claims of Interference in Iraqi Affairs Rejected

LD1303154292 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] U.N. Hq. (New York), March 13, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, has rejected Iraqi claims of Iran's interference in the internal affairs of that country.

Kharrazi in his letter to the UN secretary general, dismissed as "false, unjustified, unfounded and baseless allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran", the remarks made by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz at the UN Security Council on Thursday.

Kharrazi drew Butrus Ghali's attention to Iran's letter to the world body dated 22 March 1991 in response to similar "fallacious allegations" by the Iraqi regime.

Last year's letter had reiterated that Iran does not seek to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot remain but alarmed at the numerous reports of horrifying attacks by Iraqi forces against innocent civilians as well as desecration of holy shrines and prominent religious personalities.

'Aziz is at the U.N. to explain Iraqi refusal to dismantle its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction as ordered by the U.N.

Swedish Diplomat Declared Persona Non Grata

LD1703095692 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA—A Swedish diplomat in Tehran, Bjorn Larsson, was considered "persona non grata" and a "spy" and was asked to leave the country immediately, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily reported Tuesday.

The morning daily, quoting an informed source in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, bordering Pakistan, reported that the second secretary of the Swedish Embassy had been arrested by the law enforcement forces on the border heading for Mirjavah.

Investigations proved that Larsson was in the area to collect information on the law enforcement facilities in the border and on illegal traffic of drug smugglers and bandits from the border, daily said. According to the report, the Foriegn Ministry has asked the Swedish Embassy for the immediate departure of Larsson from the Islamic Republic.

Embassy in Spain Denies Link to Arms Smuggling

LD1403071892 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Madrid, March 14, IRNA—Iranian Embassy here Friday categorically denied any link between an arms smuggling group and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The embassy statement added that it was regretfull that fabrications of centers, whose hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran is known to all, find their way to mass media.

The Spanish police announced here Friday that it has uncovered an international arms smuggling network in Madrid. Spanish media including the state-run radio claimed that the network was connected to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the police the network was run by an Iranian named Mehdi Kashani.

IRNA Correspondent, Others Arrested in India

LD1203210492 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] New Delhi, March 12, IRNA—About fifty journalists in Srinagar were arrested today by the security forces when they tried to take out a procession to protest against the cane charge by the forces last week, reports IRNA correspondent from Srinagar. Carrying placards and banners the journalists representing local, national and international newspapers and news agencies took out a process on in defiance of the prohibitory orders.

The journalists had earlier moved an application before the district magistrate for permission to take out the procession. There was, however, no response from the magistrate. According to latest reports the arrested journalists were later pushed out of the police station. The arrested journalists included the IRNA correspondent in Srinagar. Today, in a meeting the scribes in Srinagar have decided to continue defying prohibitory orders and continue publications of text banned by a recent public notification. The journalists are demanding a probe by a sitting high court judge into the last week's cane charge on them and withdrawal of notification banning publication of news items, statements and other material which tend to incite violence, encourage sedition and disturb communal harmony.

New Regional Status Requires Foreign Policy Shift

NC1703113992 Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Unsuccessful Diplomacy in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] There is no doubt that Iran today is a regional power. As we have said before, most of our officials do not realize this, even though it is repeated in our propaganda. Our recent efforts to forge relations with the newly independent countries can be expanded much further but the revolution's enemies have reacted to them indignantly, indicating the power of the Islamic revolution. Whether or not we have capitalized on this power is worth assessing.

Even if we step up our diplomatic efforts round the world, these efforts cannot eliminate the obstacles to our system and revolution if we do not define our priorities. The Persian Gulf and Iraq should be among the country's priorities when it comes to threats against our national security and interests. Those who claim to have adopted a new and successful policy on the Persian Gulf and Iraq should tell us its results. Hardly a day goes by when the newspapers do not mention U.S. joint maneuvers with one or other of the shaykhdoms or military deals worth billions of dollars. When could the United States have had such a direct and extensive military presence in the Persian Gulf? Much of this resulted from Saddam's foolhardy military aggression against Kuwait.

What has been the effect of improving relations with the Persian Gulf shaykhs on the swiftly expanding U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, which our higher officials have consistently condemned as illicit?

There is hardly any need to elaborate on the oil issue, now also linked to the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region. The Saudis' insistence on keeping oil production high to saturate the market, based on an arcane deal with the United States and its allies, has greatly affected our income and that of the other oil-producing countries.

Our foreign policy, not yet seen to be better than its predecessors, is marked by more diplomatic shuttles without any reciprocal visits and has not achieved anything as far as the price of oil and the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf are concerned. So where must it prove itself?

Regarding Iraq, we perceive only a sort of reactive policy. It is as if we have resigned ourselves to our fate and are merely waiting to see what will happen. In such circumstances, criticizing Iraqi dissidents for going to Riyadh also appears unjust. They will obviously cite our officials' inertia, which we cannot deny.

Conditions in the region are extremely complex and the roads to guaranteeing our national interests and safeguarding the Islamic revolution's hopes cannot easily be recognized. To reach these roads, it is not enough to preserve our revolutionary spirit while neglecting the main issues out of sheer optimism. Every military pact signed between the United States and the region's shaykhs, at the same time as raising disarmament slogans, directly threatens our security as it is aimed against Islamic Iran. We should take a clear stand. When occasional maneuvers are staged, we should not treat them indifferently or the enemy will keep advancing.

Our officials should be sufficiently guided by the revolution leader, announcing the system's stances and policies, during which he categorically attacks the United States and its allies in the region. Now we wish to see the extent to which the officials' performance synchronizes with the exhortations of our great leader.

Considering the above, their performance has not been brilliant.

President Chairs National Security Council Meeting

LD1403211992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The Supreme Council for National Security met Saturday evening. The session was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by Council members, political advisers, and the country's senior military commanders.

* Majles Deputies Confronted With Stones, Eggs

92AS0638I London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] The people pelted with stones and eggs and drove away a group of Majles deputies who had gone to the province of Fars as part of a program to promote the celebration of the anniversary of the revolution.

Fakhr ol-Din Hejazi, one of the regime's Majles deputies from Tehran, who was one of those pelted with stones and driven away, disclosed the public attack on the group of Majles deputies in a talk given on 9 February at the College of Economics and Political Science of the National University. He said: I went with a group of

respected Majles deputies to Lamard (an area in the province of Fars) to open a passion play theatre, when we were greeted by stones and sticks.

Fakhr ol-Din Hejazi claimed that the public attack on them was caused by the fact that "the capitalist system wants to send a deputy from that area to the Majles, and it regards our presence as an obstacle to its goal".

Hejazi complained about the people for throwing stones and eggs. He said: The exalted leader has said that the elections must be sound. Then these people come throwing stones and rocks.

Recently the regime's officials, from both the right and left factions, have daily faced increasing difficulties in encounters with the public, and most of them are facing sharp verbal protests and demonstrations of opposition from the public, and sometimes they even face physical attacks.

* Paper on Rivalry for Control of Majles

92AS0638E London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 12

[Text] According to a traveler recently returned from Iran, the dice have been thrown for the elections and are still tumbling, but it is still not clear how they will land, whether it will be "pair of sixes" Hashemi-Rafsanjani or "snake eyes" Mohtashemi, or the reverse, Mohtashemi after "snake eyes" Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the closing of the houses related to the "pair of sixes."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani says that he cannot move his development programs ahead without a reliable and dependable parliamentary majority (would he be able to do so with such a majority?). The hardliners say that if they do not have a significant share in the Fourth Majles, they will seriously promote election boycotts. Mohtashemi: "Boycotting the elections is better than having them push us aside as they did in the elections for the Assembly of Experts."

Well-informed circles in Tehran say that Khamene'i's decision in this regard will be fateful. Khamene'i, however, in his turn, is under pressure by the Assembly of Experts, who can lawfully make important decisions about him. The result is that the end of the skein is still missing.

* Khaz'ali: Unfit Will Be Kept Out of Majles

92AS0638B London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 pp 1-2

[Text] Ayatollah Khaz'ali, member of the Council of Guardians and a professor at Qom Seminary, who has been mobilized along with the other seminary teachers and leaders of the Islamic Republic to encourage the people and to participate in the elections, spoke several days ago at Bab ol-Rahmeh Mosque in Esfahan in support of the regime's officials and opposing those who believe that the regime's leader must be both a political leader and a fully qualified person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence. He said: If a 90-year-old elderly man came to power, and many people were happy to see this active, inquisitive, hard-working man, I congratulate you on his leadership, the inquisitiveness of the respected president, his careful views and his good ministers. Khaz'ali emphasized: Of course we have unfit individuals, I do not say we don't have them. Khaz'ali added: Listen to Khaz'ali, not voting and not going to the polls is worse than drinking wine and committing adultery.

Khaz'ali threatened: If an unfit person tries to get into the Majles, we will apply DDT, and as long as I have strength, I will not permit an unfit person to get into the Majles.

The prominent member of the Council of Guardians continued: You say that the women are improperly veiled, you say they have brought music, and that they are playing it. I consider these things bad, but I would not cut down a plane tree because two flies or two sparrows were sitting in it, so that I could say a fly was sitting in it, so that I could say two sparrows had disturbed my sleep, so I could cut down the plane tree and let America and France come and have dancing at Bab ol-Rahmeh Mosque. Khaz'ali said: The former minister of the interior (he is referring to Mohtashemi) became a candidate. If we open his files and we see that on some day he spoke for Israel, or for the hypocrites, we would not let him into the Majles as a deputy! Of course this would be with documentation. We have no grudge against any faction, but wherever we obtain documentation, we will not let you go to the Majles. Do you want to speak for Israel, do you want to weaken the leader? We know what is going on in the country, but the country must be tranquil. Mr. Khaz'ali added: This strand of hair protruding from the veil is wrong. They even said to the minister of guidance, when you were speaking with this woman and her hair was protruding, why didn't you prohibit the evil with her. They said to him, how is it that you were face-to-face with her and did not see that? Issues are being raised, but are you going to tell everyone to cut down the plane tree because of two sparrows sitting in it?

* Commentary on Proposed Merging of Ministries

92AS0592A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 22 Jan 92 pp 2, 8

[Text] It was proposed recently in the Majles to reconsolidate the three ministries of Heavy Industries, Industries, and Mines and Metals and to form the Ministry of Industries and Mines, and single-urgency status was approved for the proposal. To study the aspects of this matter we must go back to the past, and consider the reason for splitting these three ministries. After the Islamic revolution, and especially after the onset of the imposed war and the spread of the economic embargo, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, first based on the Constitution and second because of the

need for more control of production and the importation of raw materials and industrial machinery, was forced to provide administrative coverage for most of the affairs having to do with small industry and those related to the nation's large and mother industries and mines such as: the exploration, extraction, and export of mined materials; the purchase, production, and distribution of industrial raw materials; the import and production of light and heavy industrial machinery and their distribution; and other things, and, as it said itself, to get directly involved. Therefore, in view of the vast amount of work and the fact the former Ministry of Industries and Mines could not undertake such a task, it was decided that the duties of this ministry would be divided into three categories, each to be assigned to a ministry. In this way the three ministries of Heavy Industries, Industries, and Mines and Metals were formed. After these ministries were formed the issue of consolidating them was raised several times, but it was not approved because this proposal was a purely political move by a group of deputies made only for the purpose of dismissing the minister opposed to their own line (Engineer Behzad Nabavi). This time, however, another group is pursuing the matter, apparently for more logical reasons.

Apart from the fact that it is possible that support for this proposal might mean reducing the breadth and width of this nation's huge administrative apparatus, these changes and even talking about them will disturb most of the nation's economy, meaning industries and mines, and they will leave producers, importers, exporter,s and foreign and domestic vendors at a loss, and they do not know what the nation's industrial policy will be like in the near future, and how they can invest in this matter. The result of this will be that 13 years after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, the nation's industry only accounts for about 10 percent of the gross national product, and in view of the fact that some of these industries are montage operations and unnecessary, it can be said that the industrial sector has almost no role in the nation's economy, and on the other hand it is not clear who we should blame and call to account in this regard.

In any case, apart from the positive and negative effects of approving this bill, we believe that the basic problem of the nation's industry will not be solved by consolidating or splitting the duties of the ministries. To solve the problems related to the mines and industry sector, much more important and basic issues must be addressed, the most important of which we will discuss below:

1. Clarifying the nation's economic policy, which can be considered and studied in two sectors.

A. The lack of clear limits on government, private- and cooperative-sector activity. In this regard it must be said that under the Constitution and based on the nation's highest interest, affairs pertaining to the large and mother industries as well as most of the nation's mines must be in the hands of the government, but in practice we see that without taking into account Article 44 of the Constitution and the nation's interest, large industries such as machine manufacturing and a great part of the mines have been or will in the future be transferred to the private sector. Therefore it has been deemed unnecessary to have vast government organizations to put these affairs in order, and they have set out to consolidate them. It is necessary to note that this is not a new topic, and it goes back to the early years of the prime ministry of Engineer Musavi and the differences between the government and the Majles on the one hand and the respected Council of Guardians on the other. At that time the government and the Majles believed that nationalizing these sectors would be a violation of Islam, and in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution that says all the laws (even the articles of the Constitution) must conform to Islam, or else they must be put aside, and that this should be determined by the Council of Guardians. Most of Article 44 of the Constitution cannot be enforced. Since the Council of Guardians does not have the right to make laws and cannot officially present and approve a proposal and the government and the Majles cannot reject the view of that council, the matter remained moot and every once in a while according to the taste of the officials at the time, a new program is implemented concerning the various economic sectors. Therefore the Majles, the government, the Council of Guardians and especially the Expediency Discernment Council should clarify this issue once and for all so that the various sectors will know their responsibilities and limits. Otherwise, it is not at all unlikely that policies will change with new officials and the need will be felt again to divide responsibilities, and this futile cycle will continue.

B. Excessive profitability in the service sector, which leads to noninvestment in the agriculture and industry sectors. Although efforts and measures have been taken in this regard such as approving the Direct Taxation Law and other things, in a country where there are 24 billion [as published] rials currency in circulation in the private sector compared to 11,000 billion rials in the national budget and the power to invest properly has been taken away from officials, growth in the service sector must be arrested as soon as possible through the use of leverage such as taxes and other monetary and financial policies, as well as the use of the judicial power, in order to bring wasted profits back into the public treasury, and investment must be guided into agriculture and industry.

2. The lack of a clear model for consumption. In nations where resources are limited, a path must be adopted that makes the best use of them. Therefore, during the Five-Year Plan the government is required withing six months to prepare and submit for implementation a model for consumption. Unfortunately, however, after two and one-half years this has yet to occur. Therefore the nation's various sectors do not know what society's consumption ought to be in order to guide production in that direction. It is therefore natural to take one's momentary interests into account, and, just as we see in

the agricultural sector for example, instead of rice and wheat, they grow kiwi fruits. In the industrial sector, one agreement in principle after another is issued to produce Mercedes-Benz, Peugeot, Volkswagen, and other types of passenger automobiles, without regard for whether their consumption and the need for them has been set. The result of this is that sometimes it is our strategy and slogan to stop imports, and other times we make the strategy of expanding exports our model, and in view of the fact that we do not have the ability to compete on international markets, we encourage to people to consume more unnecessary items so we will be able to sell the goods produced.

3. Lack of a clear rial rate for foreign exchange. This is also one of the reasons why foreign and domestic investors cannot invest in the sector producing industrial goods. Currently half of the foreign exchange obtained through the sale of oil is sold at the preferred and floating rate. This means that we have accepted the drop in the value of the rial. Officials must take a single rapid and calculated step to clarify this correspondence so that investors will know where they stand and with careful calculations will be able to invest in the industrial sector and increase industrial production.

In addition to the lack of investment in the various sectors, another harmful effect of the multiple foreign exchange rates in the nation's economy is that domestic production, which is done with preferred and floating foreign exchange, is more expensive than imported goods, which are bought with government foreign exchange, and therefore its ability to compete with them is undermined and domestic producers are closing down.

4. The lack of specialist and practiced manpower. In view of the fact that manpower trained in the nation's universities are not in direct relation with the industrial centers, they are unable to go directly into the labor market and on the other hand since the foreign exchange budget for the nation's higher education is 68 percent of the entire nation's foreign exchange budget, we have come up against a serious problem with regard to the procurement of specialist manpower in the industrial sector. The only way to solve this problem is to increase the budget of the universities for training specialist manpower and to create a close relationship between the industrial centers and the universities, and perhaps this problem will be solved to some extent through the creation of industrial universities, which are considering training in the work environment.

In conclusion, we emphasize again that consolidating or splitting the responsibilities of the ministries might solve some problems temporarily, but not only is this not a basic way of solving the problem, it could cause new problems. Therefore the basic problems in the industrial sector must be solved.

* Objection to Naseri's Election Reported

92AS0631H London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] The appointment of Sirus Naseri, the diplomat accused of running the terrorist network of the Islamic Republic, as the deputy director of the UN Commission on Human Rights has spurred widespread reactions among Iranians living abroad.

The office of Reza Shah II published a press release calling it a blatant disregard for the justified demands of millions of Iranians "who have in the past set their hopes on international agencies such as the Commission on Human Rights for protection against the vast and continuous aggression in the past 13 years by the inhumane and hardhearted regime of the Islamic Republic against our nation." This communique states: This "so-called appointment" damages the prestige of this important international agency; and if it is not corrected somehow, it will severely cast doubts on the actions and rulings of the Commission in the future.

The press release of the office of Reza Shah II, with reference to the condemnation of the Islamic Republic of the Commission of Human Rights itself and world public opinion, states that it will resort to any action to rectify this heinous act along with all the countries that are able to express their absolute opposition to this unacceptable "appointment."

The Human Rights Society in Iran also announced in a communique in Paris:

"The regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, continuing its deceptive policy of appearing to pursue international relations, was able to force its representative into the position of deputy director of the 48th meeting of the UN Conference on Human Rights. This appointment, which took place following secret meetings between the representatives of the Asian countries and after the resignation of the representative of Cypress in the interest of the representative of the Islamic Republic, stunned and astonished not only the government human rights agencies but also most of the delegations of the UN member countries.

"The simultaneity of this appointment with the sending of a communique concerning the Freedom Movement of Iran by the French News Agency in Tehran, stating that there is relative improvement in the situation of human rights in Iran, indicates a conspiracy prepared by the officials of the Islamic Republic for this meeting of the Human Rights Commission to prevent the extension of the assignment of Mr. Galindo Pohl, the special representative of the United Nations. Interestingly, the communique about the Freedom Movement of Iran was issued at a time when the activities of that organization are still prohibited and a number of its high-ranking officials, including Mr. 'Abdol'ali Bazargan, the son of the leader of the Freedom Movement, are still in jail.

"Nonetheless, the UN Human Rights Commission has 53 governments as its members, many of whom are violators of human rights, and the selection of the representative of the Islamic Republic as the vice chairman of this commission in no way proves the improvement of human rights conditions in Iran (as the representative of Tunis was also appointed to this position). The Human Rights Society of Iran informs non-government human rights agencies, particularly its affiliated agency, the International Human Rights Federation, about the arrangements of the regime of the Islamic Republic and calls for the extension of the assignment of the special representative of the Human Rights Commission to investigate the human rights conditions in Iran."

Also, the "International Organization of Iranian Youth Alliance" published a communique in the city of Bonn (Germany) and announced: "With the selection of Sirus Naseri, the term 'human rights' becomes questionable for many Iranians. While in Iran human beings are being sacrificed by the Islamic Republic for free thinking, a cohort of this medieval regime is selected as the representative of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva." In this communique, astonishment is expressed in regards to the selection of Sirus Naseri, whose totalitarian regime has been condemned by the Human Rights Commission, as the vice chairman of that very Commission.

Three leftist organizations (the People's Feda'i Organization of the Majority, the People's Feda'i Organization, and the Democratic Party of the People of Iran) published a letter addressed to the chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission and informed him: "The government of the Islamic Republic, according to reliable statistics, was recognized in 1991 as the country with the most executions. The role of Iran in hostage taking and international terrorism, mass executions, stoning, discrimination against women, the violation of basic freedoms, and the suppression of opposition and those with differing views has not been unknown to the UN Human Rights Commission. Mr. Chairman, we, the signatories (to this letter) insistently ask you to take the necessary steps to correct this great error, which before everything else damages the prestige of the United Nations and the Human Rights Commission."

These three political groups asked in their letter for the extension of the assignment of Galindo Pohl for 1992.

The Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran also sent a letter to the chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission announcing its "strong protest against and discontent with" the "insulting" selection, listed the widespread aggression of the regime of the Islamic Republic against basic human rights, and asked the chairman of the commission to take the necessary steps to correct this "great mistake in order not to discredit the international human rights organizations in the opinion of the public and lovers of freedom."

"The Society of Iranian Women" in Frankfurt also sent a letter to the UN Secretary General to protest the appointment of Sirus Naseri and called for his dismissal from the Human Rights Commission.

Also, the "Organization of the People's Feda'i Guerrillas" published a press release and asked "all the revolutionary and progressive forces and world public opinion" to protest in any manner possible the appointment of Sirus Naseri, who has "so far taken part in several of the terrorist operations of the regime of the Islamic Republic against the leaders of the opposition abroad and is one of the competent figures of the regime for this purpose," and not to allow the regime of the Islamic Republic to "be exonerated instead of being condemned and having its crimes exposed."

* Strike by Oil Refinery Workers Reported

92AS0631G London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Minister of Petroleum Aqazadeh in Tehran; name of interviewer, date not given]

[Text] For the first time since 1979, oil industry workers stopped working and engaged in a hunger strike. Officials of the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic, who verified in an interview with REUTERS that the strike had taken place, said that the strike had ended, and the salaries of the workers, according to a promise given to them by Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the minister of petroleum, would increase beginning the first of next spring (21 March 1992).

The strike began on January 9 and continued for two weeks. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Abdo'azizi, from the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic, who during those days felt the pressure of reporters concerning whether the reports of the strike were true or not, finally admitted that "a small number of the workers of the Tehran refinery had gone on a hunger strike for welfare and financial reasons." He mentioned the number of strikers as being 40 to 50, but REUTERS, reporting from Nicosia, writes that the reason for the shortage of oil and fuel in Iran is the shutdown of the refineries in the country. There are reports of the shortage of oil throughout Iran and indications that the strike was much more widespread than the Ministry of Petroleum would admit.

According to REUTERS, this is the first time that the Islamic regime has confessed to the occurrence of a protest and strike in a part of Iranian industries, especially its most important industry. REUTERS adds that the Islamic Republic is highly sensitive about what happens in the oil industry, because oil is the main artery in the Iranian economy.

In other words, oil is the only commodity that brings cash to Iran. The strike of the employees of the refineries played a major role in the downfall of the previous regime in Iran. In 1980, after a large group of oil

company employees were dismissed, there were scattered protests in various segments of this industry.

The hunger strike of the employees of the Iranian refinery was not reported in any Islamic Republic publications. Only SALAM newspaper wrote that in a gathering of the employees of the Tehran refinery, several workers spoke about their financial, salary, and insurance problems, and one of the refinery employees said: We waited patiently, without saying anything, for eight years because of the war with Iraq. But now, it is not right to be silent, because of many other problems.

On the other hand, Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic, said in an interview in Tehran concerning the protests and strikes of oil workers: "We have announced the labor law almost fully, and the Ministry of Petroleum intends to implement it."

He emphasized that another reason for the oil industry workers' strike was the struggle over the establishment of the Islamic Council of the Ministry of Petroleum. Aqazadeh-Kho'i said concerning the establishment of the Islamic Council: "The law exempts the Ministry of Petroleum and has considered our interests."

Aqazadeh-Kho'i then confessed to the inability of the government to provide fuel for the people and said: "We admit that there is a shortage of oil, and the problems of the people are not being met, although we work beyond the capacity of the refineries. But, considering the growth of the population and the low production in the Abadan refinery, domestic production is not sufficient for domestic needs. For this reason, the government was granted permission this year by the Majles to import petroleum products equivalent to 275,000 barrels of crude oil daily, which is about 60,000 barrels more than the government-proposed figure. Nevertheless, in my opinion, we still have, for example, a shortage of 8 million liters of kerosene per day. If the government would allow it, the Ministry of Petroleum could import it and make it free, like gasoline."

Aqazadeh-Kho'i then implicitly referred to the increase in the price of petroleum products in the near future and said: "We shall try (in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]) to eliminate the rationing system in all areas regardinhg petroleum products. Of course, setting the prices will be the responsibility of the Economic Council."

Aqazadeh-Kho'i then connected the disruption in the operation of several power plants in the country to the freezing of the natural gas pipes that send natural gas to these power plants.

Two weeks ago, Hasan Habibi, the first deputy of the president of the Islamic Republic, said in his weekly press conference that the Ministry of Petroleum should apologize to the people for the oil shortage and the problems that have occurred in regards to fuel and heat.

But in response, the Ministry of Petroleum issued a communique admitting the existing shortages and announced:

"The allocation given to oil production has been small and is not proportional to the population growth." He concluded: "Next year, with consideration for the population growth of about 3.5 percent and the energy increase of about 10 percent, the allotment will be even less."

The Ministry of Petroleum added: "Unfortunately, every year during the winter cold season, a number of people remember that winter is cold and there is fuel problem; but instead of finding a rational and fundamental solution to the problem, they deal with it superficially."

The severe cold had caused school closures in several cities, not only because it was difficult and dangerous for students to travel to and from school, but also because classrooms had no heat.

* Poisonous Waste Shipped Under False Label

92AS0631E London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The German police at the port of Hamburg discovered 142 barrels of poisonous liquid labeled as industrial machinery, which was to be sent to Iran.

The North German Radio (NDR) reported this week: In mid-January, significant amounts of this substance, which may contain nuclear ash, were sent to Iran intending to be dumped into the sea. For this cargo, commercial permits were issued under the label of industrial equipment.

These substances cannot even be destroyed in the super modern kilns in Germany. They are sometimes first sent to Iran and, after issuance of false labels, are dumped into the sea.

* Bulgaria Declines To Purchase Oil

92AS0631D London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] Bulgaria informed the Islamic Republic that because none of the credited banks would secure the amount of $50 million requested by Iran to sell oil to that country, it will decline to purchase Iranian oil. The foreign minister of Bulgaria, (Stoyan Ganev), signed an oil purchase agreement during his visit to Iran last month, with six-month installments. (Vulchev), the head of the Bulgarian Central Bank, announced this Friday: "To secure the conditions of Iran for the sale of oil to Bulgaria is not practical. The oil delegation of Bulgaria returned this week from Tehran emptyhanded."

* Alviri: Adverse Publicity Hinders Service

92AS0631A London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Morteza Alviri, the head of the Majles budget committee, wrote in a letter to 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, that the special court for the

clergy, by publishing statements about him in the mass media, has deprived him of the "opportunity to serve."

Several months ago, Morteza Alviri, along with a delegation of dozens of Majles representatives, went to Qom to visit Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. This delegation was headed by Hashemian, the deputy speaker of the Majles. Following this visit, the special court for the clergy summoned Hashemian, accusing him of "weakening the foundations of the instructions of the Imam," and also sent a summons to Morteza Alviri.

Following this summons, Alviri said in a pre-agenda speech in the Majles, "The Grand Ayatollah is a revered religious jurist" who has between 80 and 100 emulators in the Majles, and that visiting him is not a crime. From then on, the special court of the clergy, which is operated under the supervision of the leader and religious guardian, continued its accusations against Alviri, even though Khamene'i had ordered Alviri's summons to be revoked.

Now, Alviri wrote in a letter to Khamene'i: "Most unfortunately, the special court of the clergy has been quoted in the media as saying things about me that have deprived me of the opportunity to serve, because I am accused of things that I have always supported and have suffered hardship."

In response to this letter, Khamene'i wrote: "It is necessary for brothers such as you to pay attention to the intentions of the enemies and not allow the enemy in ambush to take undue advantage of their words and deeds."

It is worthy of note that neither letter was handwritten, but typed.

* Several Killed Crossing Into Azerbaijan

92AS0638H London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Five Iranians who were crossing into the Republic of Azerbaijan via the Azadlu border in Garmi Moghan were killed and wounded by Azerbaijan's border agents.

These five Iranians, who trespassed onto Azerbaijani soil last Friday, disregarded the order to halt given by border agents and were struck by bullets, and as a result two of them were killed and three were wounded.

Azerbaijan's border agents have not yet delivered the bodies of those killed, former residents of Ardebil and Garmi Moghan, to the Islamic Republic.

According to Iranian border officials, also last Saturday evening four citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who were planning an unauthorized entry into Iranian soil, were killed by gunfire from Azerbaijan's border agents in the Azadlu area.

* Islamic Propagation Organization Seeks Budget

92AS0638G London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] In the heat of the budget debate in the Majles, several deputies in this Majles proposed that foreign exchange budgets equalling approximately $6 million be provided to the Islamic Propagation Organization so that it can compete with the propaganda campaigns being waged by Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan in the newly independent Central Asian Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union.

It is noteworthy that the Islamic Propagation Organization has previously presented its proposal, prepared a dollar cost figure, and sent it to the Majles deputies. The details of this proposal are as follows:

1. Sending eulogists to the former Soviet republics: 360 people per year at a cost of $180,000.
2. Sending missionaries: 720 people per year at a cost of $360,000.
3. Sending Koran readers: 360 persons per year at cost of $180,000.
4. Resources for printing Korans and prayers: $500,000.
5. Printing and distributing 1 million copies of photographs, posters, and holding an exposition: $1 million.
6. Publication of a weekly magazine, at a cost of $2.8 million.
7. Unanticipated expensess: About $1 million.
8. Extra expenses to form a special staff and direct supervision and evaluation: $20,000.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Belgrade, without waiting for its foreign exchange budget to be approved, published the first issue of its magazine called NUR, to "strengthen relations between the Muslims of Iran and the Muslim people of Yugoslavia."